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Libya denies expelling Egyptians

TRIPOLI (AFP) - Libya said on Friday that it had taken no measures against Egyptians working in the country after reports that 2,500 Egyptians had been expelled, possibly for security reasons. "There are nearly 1.5 million Egyptian workers (in Libya) cooperating with their Libyan brothers in developing the country," Libyan Minister for Unity Jumaa Al Mahdi Al Fazzani said, quoted by the state news service JANA. The Egyptian head of customs at the Sallum border post, Mohammed Al Adl, told AFP on Thursday that some 2,500 Egyptians had been thrown out of Libya in the preceeding 48 hours. Mr. Adl said 600 Palestinian expairiates were also expelled to the Gaza Strip. But Mr. Fazzani said on Friday that "the exits and entries at Libyan-Egyptian said on Friday that "the exits and entries at Libyan-Egyptian border posts are completely ordinary," adding that he was "surprised" by the Egyptian reports. JANA added that Mr. Fazzani had contacted Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa about the reports. Mr. Musa said in a statement Friday that his ministry was "in contact with Libyan officials in order to stop the expulsions of Fountian citizens." expulsions of Egyptian citizens.



U.S. pleased with progress in self-rule talks

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States said Friday it was pleased with the progress made in Israeli-Palestinian talks on self-rule and would be actively in touch to help reach a final agreement as soon as possible. The U.S. reaction followed four days of direct talks between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres days of direct talks between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafai that cleared major hurdles but fell short of a full self-rule accord for the West Bank. (see story below). "They've made good progress and reached agreement on key issues." said State Department spokesman David Johnson. "It's our understanding they've given guidelines to their negotiators for putting a final agreement on paper. "We're very supportive and very pleased of the progress that has been made." Secretary of State Warren Christopher spoke by telephone with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and bad spoken twice in the past two days with Mr. Arafai and Mr. Peres. Arafai and Mr. Peres

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Iraqi defectors granted refuge in Jordan Saddam: Defectors stole millions

Hussein Kamel, Saddam's son-in-law, in contact with U.S. officials, Iraqi opposition

By Natasha Bukhari with agency dispatches

AMMAN - Two daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and their husbands, one of them the architect of the country's military weapons programme, who have been given asylum in Jordan, remained under light Jordanian security outside Amman on Friday.

The two sons-in-law of the Iraqi president were reported to have established contacts with opposition groups and the U.S. government.

Hussein Kamel Al Hassan, Iraq's minister of minerals and industries, and his brother Saddam, head of the presidential guards, fled to Jordan on Tuesday along with their wives, Raghda and Rana — the eldest and second daughters of President Saddam.

King Hussein met with the Hassans shortly after their arrival on Tuesday and granted them asylum in response to their request.

President Saddam sent his eldest son Uday and a cousin. former Defence Minister Ali Hassan Majid, to Amman Thursday evening with a message to His Majesty King Hussein seeking the return of the Hassans. The King met with them for about 10 minutes, but turned down the demand for the return of the defectors, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said. 'It was a big no," said Mr. Kabariti.

Mr. Kabariti said the granting of the asylum was in line with Jordan's traditional policy of giving refuge to any Arab seeking shelter. "He who enters Abu Abdullah's bouse is safe," said the minisKing thanks Clinton for pledge to defend Jordan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — King Hussein thanked President Bill Clinton Friday for pledging to protect his country should Iraq retaliate against Amman's decision to grant asylum to President Saddam Hussein's family members, the White House said.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said Mr. Clinton called the King, who expressed his gratitude for Mr. Clinton's vow Thursday before the two leaders discussed the impact of the flight Tuesday by President Saddam's two daughters and their busbands, both key insiders of the regime.

"It is clear that the motivation for the defections are the deplorable conditions which exist in-

Jordan needed Iraqi oil.

If anything, they said, a suspension of Iraqi oil supply to Jordan would be more President Saddam meanwhile sent a congratulatory message to the King on the occasion of the anniversary of detrimental to the interests of Iraq, which depends on the the Monarch's accession to

side Iraq and the lack of

credibility of Saddam Hus-

sein," Mr. McCurry said.

had been no indications the

defectors would seek U.S.

asylum and could not con-

firm reports that there had

been direct contact be-

tween the Iraqis and U.S.

In Amman, a Western diplomat said that senior

U.S. military officials ar-

rived here on Friday and

held an "informal meeting"

The U.S. military offi-cials and Mr. Hassan "are

discussing information that

General Hussein Kamel

Hassan might have on Iraqi

arms, especially biological and chemical," the official

with Mr. Hassan,

Mr. McCurry said there

the throne on Thursday. The Kingdom for access to the message was taken as an indication that the defection According to sources, the Iraqi defectors, who were did not have any serious and accompanied by a cousin, immediate impact on Major Izzeddine Hassan, and his family and about 15 Iraqi The overland flow of Iraqi soldiers and officers - all of oil to Jordan continued as normal on Friday. Some reports had suggested that the

whom were also given refuge --- were staying at a villa in Naour outside Amman. It was not immediately clear why the Hassans, who hail

from the powerful Al Majid

cian in Takrit, President Sad-



Hussein Kamel Hassan

Defections bewilder Iraqis living in Jordan

By Rana Sabbagh

AMMAN - Itaqi refugees in Jordan said on Friday they were shocked by news of the defection of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's sons-inlaw to the Kingdom.

But while some said it showed President Saddam's grip on power was falling apart, few believed it might lead to his imminent removal or to an easing of stringent U.N. economie sanctions, which bave made life very difficult for their compat-

We are extremely happy by what happened. Finally someone stood up and shook the base of Saddam," said Miriam Khalil, a Christian, seeking free treatment for her three children outside 2

"But my heart is burning over my people and their suffering. I see no end in

sight because only God can remove Saddam," King Hussein gave asylum to two sons-in-law of President Saddam, including the powerful industry minister, their wives, children and bodyguards after they fled to

Amman on Tuesday. They join over 30,000 Iragis who have fled to Jordan since the 1991 Gulf war to escape economie hardship.

But Jordan has not allowed them to use Amman as a base to rally opposition against President Saddam, raising doubts the defectors can use them to build a basis for a strong anti-Saddam front. The minister, General

Hussein Kamel Hassan, bad (Continued on page 12)

weeks more. "An overall agreement should be reached in the coming weeks, before the

foreign ministry Progress made in four days of meetings between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat this week "will allow us to

Israel Radio.

The question of Hebron, where Israel wants to keep Washington has pledged

detail on Sunday in the Red Sea port of Eilat. Mr. Peres said he would meet the PLO leader again at the end of next week.

a document had been drawn up settling differences over control of rural zones on the West Bank, military redeployment, Palestinian prisoners, taxation, economic development and amending the

The document will not be made public until Sunday but he filled in a few details in an

released in three waves: first when the accord is signed to extend autonomy, secondly when elections take place and finally when an agreement is reached on the final status. But there was no commitment to free all the estimated 6,000 Palestinians in Israeli

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Husthe people as if they were cattle to be milked," he said. "Hussein Kamel has betrayed and was close to us, but

his influence would be like

that of Judas," President

Saddam said. ment on official radio bere. General Hussein Kamel President Saddam said his-Hassan, "stole several miltory "will stone him (Hussein lion dollars from the Iraqi Kamel) as it did with others people," the president said. and he'd rather die and not 'He would be better off dead lead a humiliating life."

Aziz says nothing has changed in Iraq

The Iraqi leaders predicted that Mr. Hassan's statements than to live to dishonour," Jordan granted General Hassan, the former industry in exile would be used "to minister and a key aide, his cover up for extending the brother and their wives period of the sanctions" President Saddam's daughwhich have been imposed on ters - political asylum on Iraq since its 1990 invasion of

Thursday. President Saddam also Also Friday, Iraqi Deputy pledged on Friday that his country's march towards Prime Minister Tario Aziz scoffed at American concerns prosperity will go on despite that his country posed a military threat to Jordan.

"Iraq's victorious march President Bill Clinton will continue despite hard cir-Thursday pledged that 'the cumstances and betrayals by United States would come to traitors," he said in a state-

upwards towards prosper-

sein on Friday accused his

son-in-law who defected to

Jordan of having "stolen"

millions of dollars in a state-

ity," he said.
"We will fight treason, especially that which attacks the resources and fortunes of

nent carried by the official INA news agency.
"This march will only go

Jordan's defence if the Kingdom were threatened by

But Mr. Aziz ridiculed what he called an American 'ballucination" of a possible Iraqi attack on its neighbour, saying "this is only non-sense," the Iraqi News Agen-

'Any interpretations linking the escape of Hussein Kamel and conditions in the country are mere deceptions...or wrong conclusions without any weight," Mr.

Aziz said. "Hussein Kamel occupied an important position in the state when he was part of it and loyal to it and its leader ...when he betrays his country and leader and flees he loses all weight and any influence in the state's affairs,"

Mr. Aziz said. Mr. Hassan was widely believed to be the highest ranking man in the leadership after President Saddam. He masterminded development of Iraq's military industry and beloed establish Iraq's elite force of Republican Guards.

Mr. Aziz, branding him a traitor, said: "It would be silly to imagine that a leader like Saddam Hussein draws his power in leading the country from a person like

The deputy prime minister said that at the start of the 1968 revolution which

(Continued on page 3)

to self-rule; talks go on

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organiation bave eleared some major hurdles along the road to a full accord to spread self-rule over the West Bank. but failed to complete the job and negotiations are to con-

Israel's chief negotiator Uri Savir predicted Friday that it would take several

Jewish new year," which falls on Sept. 24, said Mr. Savir, the director general of the

intensify the talks," he told

Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat announced early Friday that several obstacles blocking the spread of autonomy had been lifted, but not all. Watersharing and the fate of Hebron are among the intractable

forces to protect the 400 Jewish settlers surrounded by 110,000 Arabs, is to go to a joint committee (see page 2). Negotiating teams are to resume their work on the fine

The minister reported that

Palestinian national charter.

interview with Israel Radio. He said prisoners would be

He gave no numbers on how many would be set free at each stage.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Taba (AFP photo)

Mr. Peres predicted that the elections would he held in two or three months. Final status negotiations to include the issues of Jerusalem, settlements and refugees - are set to start by May 1996. "We have agreed that 420

Palestinian villages will be administered by the PLO. hut overriding security will remain in Israeli hands," Mr. Peres said.

"Israel reserves the right to hot pursuit of suspects," fleeing into PLO controlled areas on the West Bank, he stressed.

"All movements of armed Palestinian police roads will have to be coordinated with Israel."

The text of the Palestinian charter, which calls for the destruction of Israel, will be amended by PLO leaders two months after a final accord on expanding autonomy is signed, according to Peres.

He added that Israel, the United States and the PLO would form a tripartite committee to promote economic growth on the West Bank.

"After very historical, im-portant and difficult days we have achieved something

very concrete and positive for the second stage of autonomy," Mr. Arafat said.
"We hope we can continue

in this way to teach a full agreement. There are still points to be discussed in subcommittees.' Atafat spokesman Marwan

Kanafani said the PLO hoped an overall deal would be signed at the White House in Washington in September. But he warned: "The question of Hebron is a timebomb which could blow up the entire accord.'

The talks at Taba on the Egyptian side of the Red Sea produced a timetable for troop withdrawals. Israel will pull out from West Bank towns once a full agreement is scaled. Three more stages of redeployment will be spread over 18 months after

the elections. Mr. Peres said the redeployments should be completed in mid-1997. They do not cover the 140 Jewish settiements but exact areas have not been defined.

The Hawkish opposition Likud Party demanded Friday that the government pub-

(Continued on page 7)

ter, quoting from a old needed Jordan as much as (Continued on page 7) Big powers seek fresh approach to Balkan crises

Jordanian-Iraqi relations.

Iraqi government sbould shut

off the flow in retaliation for

Jordan grantling asylum to

the Hassans. But experts and

analysts dismissed the sugges-

tion, pointing out that Iraq

ZAGREB (Ageneies) — Russia and the United States, increasingly at odds over former Yugoslavia, have agreed to meet to try to coordinate peace efforts, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Fri-

French and U.S. officials agreed to seek a speedy meeting of the five-nation "eontact group" on the Yugoslav conflict, officials said here.

The meeting of the group, comprising Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, would be aimed at restarting the peace process, a statement issued by the office of French President Jacques Chirae said. In Sarajevo, the International Committee of the Red Cross said it believed some 6,000 people were missing to eastern Bosnia but said it could not confirm a U.S. assertion that thousands of

Muslims were executed and huried in mass graves. The U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Madeline Albright, gave the Security Council what one U.S. official called compelling evidence, including spy photographs and eyewitness accounts, of mass machine-gunniogs of Muslims by Bosnian Serb sol-

diers. A U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo said the U.N. was demanding "as bothy as we can" immediate access to the site, where as many as 2,700 Muslims may bave been machinegunned outside Srebrenica, captured by Bosnian

Serbs last month. Russia, highly critical of Croatia's successful offensive in Krajina, welcomed Serken one of Call bian President Slohodan i's toes. When he Milosevic to Moscow this and medianen fulk week and threatened to lift sanctions unilaterally on Bel-

U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, who arrived in Paris on Friday for talks with the French government, will now meet Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev on Saturday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi,

Interfax news agency said. Governments are strug-gling to adjust to new military realities on the ground after Croatia won back its rebel Serb Krajina enclave last weekend in a blitz offensive that sparked a massive refugee exodus."

other developments: - Belgrade said that any incursion by Croatian troops into Serb-beld eastern Slavonia would be considered an attack against its own national interests.

"Every country decides its own national interests and others must be aware of these hefore the situation gets Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic told a rare press briefing. He added that Serbia would not accept a "fait accompli" in

Croatia. He also accused the U.N. Confidence Restoration Operation (UNCRO) of reneging on a deal to assure safe passage of some 150,000 Serb refugees fleeing Krajina after the Croatian offensive there, and appealed for an early lifting of international sanctions against Belgrade.

 Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, seeking to end a deep rift with the military, reinstated General Ratko Mladic as army commander Friday a week after firing him, a senior Serb official said.

Everything goes back to the way it was a week ago," Bosnian Serb Information Minister Miroslav Toholj

The Bosnian Serb news

Karadzie "decided to suspend all planned changes in

Mr. Karadzie made the move in response to Bosnian Serh public opinion, including the Orthodox Church, "in the interest of Serb unity in order to achieve victory. aecording to a statement from the Bosnian Serb lead-

ership quoted by SRNA. Mr. Karadzie's dismissal of General Mladic, who is extremely popular with his troops, had deepened a rift between the Serbs' political and military leaders. This week the entire general staff of the military rejected the move, as had Gen. Mladic himself, and said they would only take orders from Gen.

 The 52-member Organisation of the Islamie Con-ference (OIC) will hold emergency ministerial talks in Yemen on Aug. 28 to discuss the plight of fellow Muslims in Bosnia, an official

was quoted as saying.
The OIC "has in principle set Aug. 28 as the date for an emergency foreign ministers' meeting in Sanaa to discuss the issue of Bosnian Muslims," September 26 newspaper quoted Yemeni Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary

Ghaleb Jameel as saying.

— Hundreds more Serb refugees - some bloodied, bruised and thinking of revenge - poured into Serbia after a harrowing journey from their homes in Croatia.

'We went through hell,' said Danica Trocevic, bearing a large scar on her left cheek from a rock thrown as the refugee convoy passed through Sisak, a central Croatian city on the main road to Serbia.

(Continued on page 7)

religious charity in downtown Clinton vetoes bill to lift Bosnia embargo

WASHINGTON (Agencies)
— President Bill Clinton vetoed legislation to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia on Friday, and the White House expressed confidence Congress would uphold the

veto despite sweeping support for the measure. "I know that members of Congress share my goals of reducing the violence in Bosnia and working to end the war," Mr. Clinton said in a statement. "But their vote to unilaterally lift the arms

embargo is the wrong step at the wrong time." The veto was delayed until midday to minimize chances of the Senate taking a swift vote to override. On Capitol Hill, the leader of the Republican majority, Senator Bob Dole, announced the Senate would not act until it returns from a recess in early

The administration plans to use the time between now and the Congress members" return to marshal support for Mr. Clinton's position against arming Bosnia's Muslim-led military.

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly on Aug. 1 to unilaterally lift the embargo on Bosnia after a withdrawal of U.N. peacekeepers or within 12 weeks of a request by the Muslim-led Bosnian govern-

It followed a similar Senate

resolution that passed last

week 69-29. The White House says it is not concerned about an attempt to block the veto, a move which requires a twothirds majority in both the House and the Senate, even though both chambers passed the measure with enough

of the tougher measures in and around the U.N. safe areas (in Bosnia) and our aggressive pursuit of diplomacy, we think that will make a persuasive case in support of the president's

veto," White House spokesman Michael McCurry said. "We are confident at this point we can sustain a veto override," said Mr. McCurry, adding, however, that changes on the ground in the former Yugoslavia could weaken the administration's

position. Mr. Clinton said-he opposed ending the arms ban unilaterally because it would lead to the collapse of the U.N. peacekeeping effort in Bosnia and draw U.S. soldiers into the conflict.

up to 25,000 troops to aid a .N. withdrawal. "If the Bosnian government suffered reverses on the battlefield, we - and not the Europeans - would be expected to fill the void with

military and bumanitarian

aid," the president's state-

ment added. Mr. Clinton also warned that lifting the embargo at this juncture could cause the fighting in Bosnia to escalate. "The Serbs will not delay their assaults while the Bosnian government reviews new arms and training," he said.

> allies were anxiously watching to see whether Congress will overrule the president. France and Britain in particular oppose the move, arguing that peacekeeping mission to which they are the major contributors would be at risk. Mr. Clinton also argued

Mr. McCurry said the U.S.

that lifting the arms embargo now "would undercut the new diplomanc effort we are votes to override the veto. "Given the current success currently engaged in."

Antagonism over Hebron stalls deal

HEBRON (AFP) — Rival Jewish and Arab claims to Hebron have turned the occupied city into the main flashpoint on the West Bank and a stumbling block to the spread of Palestinian autonomy across the territory.

Hehron Mayor Mustafa Natshe renewed calls Friday for the evacuation of the 400 die-hard settlers who live in a fortified compound in the leart of the town, protected by 2,000 Israeli soldiers.

The question of who is to control Hebron, home to 120,000 Palestinians, blocked 2 broader agreement overright between Israel and the Falestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to extend autonomy.

Israel wants to maintain troops in the town to protect the settlers, while the PLO demands a troop pullout from all West Bank towns to enable elections to go ahead to an autonomy council.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres admitted that he had been unable to strike a deal with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Hehron and that the issue would now go to a special joint committee.

We are very sorry and very sad to be left out," Mr. Natsbe told AFP. "Hebron should be evacuated by Israel

along with the other cities.
"We think this means that the people of Hebron will not be able to vote in the elections and if they do not vote the elections cannot he democratic.

The people were closely following the negotiations in the hope of an end to our suffering."
Mr. Natshe and bis council

helieve the ooly way to peace, particularly since a settler slaughtered 30 Muslims in Hebron's Ihrahim Mosque in February 1994, is to remove the Jewish pre-

He wants Palestiniao police to protect Muslims at the tomb, which is holy to

It was Hebron that the Bible says God made a covenant with Abraham (Ibrahim) to-lead the "chosen-people." And the Jewish hardlioers insist they have a divine right to be here.

They believe all the "biblical land of Israel" belongs to the Jews according to the "divine promise." The council of Jewish settlements issued a statement

Friday vowing to maintain a Jewish footbold io the city. "Jews have been in Hebron for 3,000 years, long before the Arabs arrived and will be there long after," the

council said. In fact, it was in 1968 that the first Israeli hardliners moved hack.

In the wave of Arah protests that swept Palestine in August 1929, the tiny Jewisb community of Hehron had been virtually wiped out. Thirty-five families returned in 1931 hut everything was destroyed in 1936 and the British evacuated survivors.

Armed extremists made little secret of their intentions to force out Hehron's Palestinian population after the 1967 war.

A clandestine Jewisb group carried out three homb attacks against Arah mayors in June 1980 in retaliation for the killing of six settlers in

In 1983, the group killed four students at the Islamic college in the town.

A year later the network. was smashed and its militants jailed, hut they soon regained their freedom.

The anti-Arah Kach movement took up the fight and bit back after each attack on Jews, particularly after the Middle East peace process began in 1991. Baruch Goldstein, who

carried out the massacre in the Ibrahim Mosque, won fulsome praise from Kach and the movement was banned in March 1994. The mosque is the tradi-

tional burial site of Abraham, his wife Sarah, aod their family.

Herod the Great sealed off the cave in 20 B.C. with massive stones and today a huge structure covers the site, more like a fortress than a holy sanctuary.

Control over the site passed between Christians, Muslims and Jews over the cen-

By 1260, the Muslim rulers refused-to -allow- Jews- toascend any higher than the seventh step of an outside staircase.

The stairway was destroyed when Israeli forces took the city in 1967.

Hamas halted attacks — Palestinian official

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has called a halt to military operatioos against Israel for fear of 'negative reactions' from the Palestinian population, a PLO security official said Thursday.

"Hamas has shown good sense in suspending operations to enable the Authority to negotiate with Israel." said General Zahariya Balusha of the Palestinian internal security service.

But he stressed in an interview on Israeli state radio that he was talking about "a temporary suspension."

Gen. Balusha said Hamas had offered Yasser Arafat's authority a plan for "a return to calm." but that it had been rejected.

Palestinian police chief General Nast Yussef warned the Palestinian opposition against any attempt to try to sabotage an agreement under negotiation with Israel to ex-. tend autonomy across the West Bank.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad bave spearheaded armed re-

JORDAN TELEVISION

sistance to Israeli occupatioo and the autonomy deal in a series of suicide bombings and 0thr attacks which have left 815 people dead since self-rule began in Gaza io May 1994.

Mr: Arafat's authorityf has repeatedly arrested suspects after the attacks leading to serious tension with opposition movements.

However, in Damascus, Hamas vowed Wednesday to work against the new timetable agreed between Israel and the PLO for an army redeployment on the West Bank.

"We consider the latest accord as null and void because it strengthens the Zionist occupation and colonisation of our land, while isolating Palestinian villages," the

group waned in a statement.
"The Palestinian authorities' acceptance of a staggered redeployment of Israeli forces and the linking of implementation of the clauses of this accord to Zionist security constitute serious new concessions made to the

Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel.



Archaeologists discover untouched Dead Sea caves

(AP) — Arcbaeologists announced Friday that they have discovered four manmade caves in the chalky hills of Qumran, not far from where Arah shepherds first found the ancient Dead Sea scrolls.

Hopes are bigh that the undisturbed new caves contain more of the manuscripts written by the Essenes, a Jewish dissident sect that may bave influenced the teachings

of Jesus. Excavation of the caves is to begin in November, as archaeologists race against time before Qumran area of. the West Bank, on the northwest shores of the Dead Sea, is handed over to Palestinian control.

The discovery of the caves now is surprising. The entire area has been extensively excavated and surveyed since the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in the 1950s. The last scroll was found in 1956.

"This is the first time since the 1956 that caves carved by humans have been found in the Qomran area." archaeologist Magen Brosbi

told the Associated Press. Mr. Broshi, the former curator of the Dead Sea scrolls at the Israel museum, came out of retirement to join the excavation with Hanan Eshel, an archaeologist from Bar Ilan University, who discovered the caves about a

"I know we are running out of time," Mr. Eshel told the AP. "A lot of things can

CAIRO (AFP) — Scientists

are to begin tests on human

tissue in Egypt in the search

for a vaccine against bilbar-

zia, a lethal parasitical worm

that threatens some 600 mil-

lion people, experts here

The in-lab tests in Septem-

ber will pave the way for

experiments of the most

effective vaccines on human

subjects to start in March,

Nahil Galai, an official with

the Egyptian Schistosomiasis

Research Project (SRP), told

- The World Health Orga-

nisation (WHO) chose Egypt

as the site for the experi-

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM happen: They may collapse, someone may loot them or maybe the political situation will change."
To prevent looting, the ex-

istence of the caves was kept secret until the archaeologists were ready to hegin excavation. The entrances have been hidden and the exact location has not been disclosed. The caves are carved in

marl, a crumbly mix of clay, sand and limestone. "They haven't been

touched. These caves are pure and sealed," Mr. Broshi said in a telephone interview. He said chances are good that they were inhabited by members of the Essenes sect, who lived in the area between about 150 B.C. and 50 A.D. Mr. Eshel said he had lo-

cated trails that led from the caves to the Essenes settlement at Qumran. "Eveo if we don't find any-

thing and they are totally empty it offers more information on how these people lived," he said. The Dead Sea

ancient documents that include poetry, legal texts and the earliest known sections of the Bible. They were found in 11 caves near the Dead Sea between 1947 and 1956.

Some 530 of the 850 Dead Sea scrolls were found in one cave-in the marl terrace similar to the ones Mr. Eshel and Mr. Broshi plan to excavate. But the scrolls did oot survive well in the crumbly cave and archaeologists are still piecing together the 15,000 frag-

ducted in Egypt, Kenya and

Brazil, where, along with

Sudan, the worm is most

Almost 200 million people

in 76 countries suffer from

hilharzia, also known as

schistosomiasis, caused by

four species of worm which

live in tiny water molluscs.

The parasite penetrates the

skin of its host then settles in

the circulatory system or in

the gut, where it can grow to

enormous lengths, damaging the liver, hladder and intes-

The hilharzia worm kills

according to the WHO.

rampant, Mr. Galal said.

ments unearthed there. "The chances of finding scrolls in good condition are not very high," Mr. Eshel

Mr. Eshel participated in "Operation Scroll," a sweep of caves in the Jericho region before the area was banded over to Palestinian control in 1994. The operation unearthed a number of 2nd century documents, jewellry and coins, but was criticised by Palestinians as last-minute plundering.

"The political situation doesn't help," Mr. Eshel

Mr. Broshi said he was not concerned since peace negotiations on expanding Palesti-nian self-rule io the West Bank talks seemed to be progressing slowly. But if the area was transferred before excavations began, he said, the caves would be plundered "quicker than you can say Jack Robinsoo."

"I will say that it is io the interest of scholarship that the excavations occur now before they (the caves) will be robbed," Mr. Broshi said. Mr. Eshel said he would be working with Vendyl Jons, a

Texas Bible Scholar who has led a number of archaeological digs to the Qumran area in search of the lost ark. The Essenes were a group

of largely celebrate males who practised an austere. contemplative life preparing for the Messiah. Like Jesus, they denounced the corruptions of the temple priests. | he said.

lakes, rivers and canals.

Egypt, which puts \$9 to \$12 million annually into the fight

against the parasite, has man-

aged to reduce its spread from 40 per cent of the population in 1983 to 11.2 per

cent in 1993, SRP figures

their stagnant irrigation can-

als, are most affected. Half of

those with the disease are

rural children, while farmers

make up much of the remain-

spent \$40 million - \$18 mil-

The United States has

Egypt's rural areas, with

Saudis raise funds to help **Bosnians**

RIYADH (AFP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia anoounced a personal gift of \$13 million to Bosnian Mus-lims on Friday at the launch of a 12-hour telethon for the beleaguered citizens of the former Yugoslav republic.

Four hours after the start of the events on Friday, Saudi television said its programme had raised \$40 million in donations from Saudis and foreign beoefactors...

Saudi Arabia, which fol-lowed a number of other Gulf countries in holding a televised telephone fundraising event for Bosnia, said on Thursday it had already raised \$213 million before the

telethon began.
King Fahd, who has donated \$103 million to Bosnia since the war began in 1992, received a personal message of thanks from Bosnian Presideot Alija Izetbegovic after his latest gift, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA)

"The king's assistance has come at a time when the for aide from their (Saudi) brothers," said President Izetbegovic.

King Fahd on Thursday made a fresh appeal to the international community and particularly Islamic countries to save Bosnian Muslims

from slaughter by the Serbs. "Your brothers ask you to come to their aid. It is our duty for all of us to intervene to save this Muslim people, crushed by Serb aggression."

Egyptian scientists fight against bilharzia discovered in 1984, which does not prevent the para-

The human tissue tests will

be conducted on six vaccines

site's return.

prepared in France, the U.S. and Brazil, where tests on animals have granted up to 60 per cent immunity, Mr. Galal Egypt has two vaccines of

its own to test and will have seven more prepared within a month, he added.

Biochemist Omar Karim, who is working on six vaccines, said his experiments aimed at gastric hilharzia. caused by the Schistosoma Mansoni worm which is hlamed for two-thirds of all

Turkish soldiers and 'copters hunt rebels'

TUNCEL1 (R) — Thousand: of Turkish troops hacked by helicopters firing rockets tried to flush a small group of Kurdish guerrillas out of mountain hidcouts in eastern Turkey on Friday, security officials said.

More than 2,000 soldiers were taking part in the sweep against about 120 Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels in and around Nazimiye district in Tunceli province, they At least six rebels and one

soldier have been killed in fighting in the area since midweek, the officials said. Tunceli has been the scen of heavy clashes since PKK

regional commander Semdin Sakik began operating in the province last year.

Rebels who had surren-

dered to security forces told reporters this week that Mr. Sakik, also known as "fingerless Zeki," bad recently left Tunceli for Singol to the east because the rebels' food supplies in Tunceli were running

Police and soldiers tightly control food deliveries in Tunceli to prevent villagers giving food to the guerrillas, either willingly or under PKK

About 10,000 soldiers are positioned near the border between Tunceli and Bingol

to flush out the guerrillas in Nazimiye and prevent Mr. Sakik and about so rebels accompanying bim from re-turning to his former stronghold in the mountains and.

More than 17,500 people have been killed in the PKK's 11-year-old fight for autonomy or independence in the southeast Turkey. Security forces killed five rebels in other parts of the region on. Friday, Anatolian news agen-cy said.

Two people were wounded when a bomb they were preparing in an Istanbul apartment exploded prematurely

on Thursday night. Police were searching for a third persoo who fled after. the explosion on Thursday, evening, and Anatolian oews agency identified the three as

Spectators pack the Abdul Sattar Thursd

Islamists

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By Khaled Kasa Special to 199

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Kurdish militants. Police also said they detained seven people from a group called the Turkish Revolution Party, allegedly behind a grenade attack on an 1stanbul police hus on July 21 that wounded 12.

Turkish experts say the group is linked to the PKK. Anatolian also reported 29: people kidnapped in eastern. Bingol province by the PKK were released on Friday after two days of lectures about the

NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya, Algeria sign security agreement

TRIPOL1 (AFP) - Lihya and Algeria signed a cooperation agreement on security issues during a visit here by Algerian Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansur, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported Friday. Libyan leader Moammar Oadhafi has repeatedly criticised armed Muslim fundamentalists who since 1992 have tried to briog down the Algerian government. Colonel Qadhafi has called them "a disgrace to Arab nationalism." The two countries are members of the Arah Maghreh Union, which also includes Morocco, Tunisia aod Mauritania.

Khashoggi family hit twice by robbers

NICE, France (R) - Thieves swooped twice oo the family of Saudi multi-millionaire Adnan Khasboggi on holiday on the French Riviera, stealing jewellery, cash and valuables from two villas within a few days. Freech police said on Wednesday, They said jewels worth 20 million francs (\$4.2) millioo) belonging to Mr. Khashoggi's wife Shahpari were stolen last weekend from their rented villa at Villefranche sur-mer. The villa showed no signs of forced entry and none of the five employees reported hearings anything unusual. On Tuesday, cash, a watch and cufflinks worth 130,000 francs (\$27,000) disappeared from the villa of Mr. Khashoggi's son Hussein in nearby Mougins, police said. The Saudi financier regularly takes holidays on the French Riviera. Gems worth a quarter of a million francs (\$52,000) were reported stolen from him in Cannes in 1993.

Japan studying mission on Golan — report

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan is considering sending its peacekeeeping troops to the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights in February next year to replace Canadian troops the Yomiuri Shimhun said Thursday. The government is expected to come up with the conclusion on the controversial dispatch within this month, the mass-circulation daily said. Japao had earlier ruled out participation in the U.N. peacekeeping operations there in May due to opposition from Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Social Democratic Party (SDP). But the SDP is now inclined to accept the dispatch on condition that the current law restricting Japan's participation in core peacekeeping activities like intruce monitoring and disarmament remain untouched, the daily said. Japan has been asked to replace the Canadians who have been carrying out transport missions in the

Members of Saudi royal family killed in crash

THE CAPE. South Africa (AFP) — Ten people, seven of them Saudis including members of the royal family, were killed in a road accident in South Africa's Cape region, police said Friday. The identities of the Saudi victims, who were on holiday in the area, had not been released "at the request of the Saudi royal family" which would make its own announcement later Friday, a police spokesman told AFP. The accident occurred Thursday afternoon on a motorway between Swelledan and Riviersonderend, some 200 kilometres east from Cape Town, when the Saudis' minibus was -in -a bead-on -collision with -a car at a crossroads. The car's three occupants were killed outright. Two Saudi women aged 50 and 32 and five children aged between three and 17 were also killed.

lion of which has gone to Egypt — since 1989 on remore than 200,000 people a ments, while tests of vaccines year and threatens some 600 search intoa a vaccine to reon voluntéers will he conmillion people living near place the current treatment.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel: 773111-19 .
PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 Back to the Future
!4:30 Harry and the Hendersons
75:00 Road to Avonica
: 6:00 Families
17:09
Children's programme — Spirou
17:30 Doc. — C'est Pas Sorcier
13:00 Drama
i 9:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine - Faut Pas Rever
19-30 New Headlines
19:35 First Flights
29:09 Major Dad
29:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Dr. Quim-Medicine Woman
22:00 News in English
22:25 Film: "Red Spider"
23:30 Fortunate Pilgrim
Manager Lightin

PRAYER TIMES 05:53 t2:4t (Sunrise) Duha

19-29 Maghreb 23:54 'Isha
CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweilich, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785. St. Joseob Church Tel. 624590.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. ian Orthodox Church Tel. **Armenia** 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amusan International Church Tel. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691. The Evangelical Local Church in

Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Depai ment of McIcorology.
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Descrits	19/ 3

Yesterday's high temperatures Amman 33. Aqaba 40 Humidity

readings: Amman 28 per cent. USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Lubbadeh 683585	
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 779797	
Dr. Arafat Al Ashah 602507	
Dr. Mohammad Al Shahaki 723222	
Firas pharmacy 661912	
Ferdows pharmacy 778336	
Al Asema pharmacy 637055	
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672	
Al Salam pharmacy 636730	(
Yacouh pharmacy 644945	
Shmeisaoi pharmacy 637660	
Najib pharmacy 847632	
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IRBID:	,
Dr. Ali Al Shoqairi 246140	
Alguds pharmacy (—)	
Aiders biratimary (—)	
ZAROA:	
Dr. Randa Shahin 995710	
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417	- 1
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EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Public Security Department 630321 . 661176 897467 Amman Municipality

Telephone Information (directory assistance). ... 1010230 . 6231a1 Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television ... Radio Jordan Water Authority

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalida Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Ams. 642441/2 Jabai Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic. Abdali 666127/37 Al-Abli, Abdəli ...

Ilalian. Al-Muhajreen Al-Bashir. J. Ashrafich Special Su ZARQA: Zarqa Govi. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560 . (09)986732 Ihn Sina Hospital Al Hikma Modern Hospital Princess Basma Hospital . . 1021275555 Greek Catholic Hospital

Ibn Al Natees Hospital

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL

.. (02)247100

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (UN)532181-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ)

(Terminal 1) 05:45 Jakana, Singapore (RJ) Damascus (RJ)
New Defhi (RJ) 10:30 . Karachi, Dubai (RJ) Ahu Dhabi, Doba (RJ) 15:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) Cairo, Alexandria (RJ) 20:40 Vienna (RJ) 22:30 Medrid (add) (RJ) 02:00 Amsterdam, Berlin (RJ) 02:20 Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2) . Vienna (OS)

..... Shariqah, Doha (GF) Rome (AZ) Cairo (MS) Beirui (ME) Larnaca (CY) **DEPARTURES** Royal Jordanian (RJ)

(Terminal 1) ... Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ) Amsierdam, New York (RJ) İstanbul (RJ) Geneva. Madrid (RJ) ····· London in in Larnaca (RJ 21:10 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ) Bahrain, Doha (RI) 22-26 Ahu Dhabi. Duhai (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Marrow (large) . Marrow (small) Mulukhia Onion (dry) Pepper (hot)
Pepper (sweet) Beirul (ME) Vienna (OS) Potato String Beans ... Sweet Melon Bahrain (GF . 260 / 180 130/80 ---- Larnuci (CY) ..., 120 / 60

Cauliflower

Dep. Amassa ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday Arr. Amassa ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple 680
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammar) 620
Cabbage 110 / 60 240/140 Cucumbers (large) Cucumbers (small) 150 / 100 650/500 450/300 600 / 500 150 / 100 150 / 100 450/300 800/600 .160 / IOO .- 380/ 280 . 420 / 300

----- Antalya (TK)

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Spectators pack the playground of the Zarqa High School to watch Qatari singer Ali Abdul Sattar Thursday night during the first Zarqa Festival of Culture and Arts

Islamists clash with authorities over protest of Zarqa public festival

By Khaled Kasasbeh Special to the Jordan Times

Zarqa - In the first Festival of Culture and Art bere. Islamists Thursday clashed with the government for holding activities that they see as being " in contradiction with religious reach-

In a memorandum signed by a large number of Zarquas, the Islamists said that the festival, which began Wednesday, includes activities that violate Islamic principles and teachings referring to dancing parties in which Jordanian and Arab singers are participating. Witnesses said IAF mem-

bers here distributed the memorandum as people entered the festival area.

Security sources said that one of the "extremists" tried to "wreak havoc" in the first day of the festival during the performance of Qatari

singer Ali Abdul Sattar. They said early interroga-tions with the "extremist"

whose name was not revealed, showed that he had planned with other partners, to cut off electricity to sabotage the festival.

Police later sent reinforcements and conducted strict inspections at all entrances. Hundreds of policemen were seen covering the area, The Islamists, the Islamic

Action Front (IAF) party members in particular, made several attempts in the past to block efforts by the govemment to hold the festival in Zarqu and sought to at least change the venue. The festival is held at an

arena next to Shubeth Castle, 20 metres away from a

IAF Zarqa deputies met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker last week and asked him to have the venue of the festival

changed to an area away from the mosque.

Head of the festival's com-Mohammad Zawahreh said Zarqa Governor Misleh Tarawneh had asked him to change the location of the festival. But Mr. Zawahreh said he msisted on the original site, but agreed to move it from the western to the eastern arena, 200 metres away from the mosque.

Observers say that since the recent defeat of the Islamist candidates in the country's first municipal elections, as well as their loss of poor showing in the Chamber of Commerce elections, has spurred discontent and anger among their constituency.

This confrontation at the festival is said to be the third between the government and Zarga Islamists during the past two months.

minister German to arrive for talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Ger-many Carl-Dieler Spranger is due in Amman on Aug. 23 for a four-day visit, according to the German Embassy in Amman.

An embassy statement said Mr. Spranger, who will be arriving here after a visit to the Palesunian self-rule aren of Jericho, will bold talks with the ministers of planning, foreign affairs and water and irrigation as well as with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker before being received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.



Carl-Dieter Spranger

Before leaving Jordan for Syria on Aug. 26, Mr. Spranger will visit the ancient city of Petra, the statement said.

symposium Finance review effect of economic restructuring farming on

Amman (Petra) - A threeday symposium on financing agricultural develop-ment in the Arab World to be held here on Aug.29. will look at the impact of economic restructuring programmes on the agricultural sector, according to Director of the Amman-based Regional Office of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) Abdul Hamid Kayed.

Dr. Kayed said the symposium will focus on financing and development policies in force and their reflections on agricultural development levels in the region.

He added that the symposium aims to brief participants on the latest developments in the area of financing regional agricultural projects and share regional

ister and to his family for

any, harm done to their good

reputation," the advertise-

"Everyone who knows Dr.

Majali knows that these alle-

gations and lies could not

Shortly after the resigna-

tion of Dr. Majali's govern-

ment on Jan: 8 Kul Al Arab

But according to sources

close to the newspaper, its

chief editor, Samih Qassem,

and its publisher, Musa

Hasadieb were in Amman at

the time the story was print-

The paper tried to make

In addition to apologisting, the newspaper ran a full-

page interview with one member of the Majali fami-

Deputy Abdul Hadi Majali

immediately denied the

information carried in the

report and contacted

lawyers in the West Bank to-

ment said.

possibly be true."

published the report.

up for the story.

said the source.

experiences in the area of financing agricultural pro-

The symposium will also review the impact of the economic reform and structural adjustment pro-grammes on financial flow directed to agricultural development projects, and identify the role of national, regional and international institutions in financing Arab agricultural projects.

Participants will discuss roles of such institutions in working out investment projects and reviewing metbods capable of enabling the private sector to benefit from development loans, granted by national, regional and international financing institutions, Dr. Kayed said.

Jordan marks 43rd anniversary of King's accession to throne

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Friday celebrated the 43rd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to

On August II, 1952 the then 17-year-old prince became the King of Jordan. Jordanians mark

anniversary of the accession in commemoration of the achievements witnessed in the Kingdom under the leadership of King Hussein, most prominent of which, was the restoration of occupied Jordanian lands and usurped water resources through the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed last October.

At the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit due in October, the Kingdom will seek to encourage development and investments in economic fields in order to reap benefits for Jordan as well as the region, the agency said.

In celebrating the anniversary, Jordanians commemo-



rate the King's untiring efforts to make Jordan into a model democratic state and 10 achieve Arab solidarity.

On the occasion, the Ministry of Post and Communications announced that it had circulated commemorative stamps to local post offices. The stamps, depicting various archaeological sites in the Kingdom, come in 50, 75, 80, 160 and 200 fils denominations, said a ministry statement.

King Hussein received cables of good wishes from heads of state and from Jordanian leaders and heads of

'Jordan, Israel to discuss property issue'

Amman (J.T.) — Jordan will insist in its future negotiations with Israel over the issue of refugees that property belonging to Jordanian citizens in Israel be recognised as such, Ambassador to Tel Aviv Marwan Muasber bas said,

Dr. Muasher said in an interview with Al Dustour Arabic daily that the Israeli law that endorsed the Jordan-Israel peace treaty on Nov. 10, 1994 has recognised any property owned by Jordanians after that date. Property owned before

that date by Jordanians of Palestinian origin wbo became refugees after the 1948 war would continue,

according to the Israeli law, to be considered property of absentees.

"Jordan will not accept that," said Dr. Muasher." We will insist on discussing the assets of the absentees and the total situation of the refugees including their right to return or be compensated" in accordance with

UN resolutions. Dr. Muasber said Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians started discussions over the fate of 1967 refugees, commonly known as displaced persons, early this year,

The refugee issue, Dr. Muasher said, will be discussed as soon as Israel and

the Palestinians start final status talks on the refugees and Jerusalem.

Dr. Muasher arrived bere Thursday to discuss with Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti and senior officials the status of current and future Jordanian-Israeli relations.

Dr. Muasher is expected to report on bis talks with Israeli officials concerning the recent Israeli court ruling that allows Jews to enter and pray at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

Dr. Muasher said that explained to Israeli officials the serious consequences of violations of the sanctity of boly places in Jerusalem.

Country's first group wedding costs only JD1,400

Amman (AFP)-- More than 1.500 people Thursday attended the first group wedding in the bistory of the Kingdom at which four couples took their vows. The cost of the entire event, held at the Yarmouk Club, came to an approximae

Organised by Al Afaf Charity Society, the objective of this arrangement "is to facilitate marriages and establish a new outlook on marriages based on good traditions taken from our religious teachings and Arab ethics," said Senator Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the society's president.

The concept also seek to make marriage affordable to those

who might otherwise find the costs prohibitive. Al Afaf society, established in 1993, offers its matchmaking services free of charge. It provides financial support in the form of loans, in cooperation with the Islamic Bank. The amount of the loans ranges between JD 500 and JD 1,000. Applicants simply need to complete an application form and submit a photo. The society bus facilitated marriages and given financial assistance to more than 90 couples.

A study carried out by the University of Jordan showed that single men between the ages of 25 and 30 made up 30 per cent of the population, while single women between the ages of 20 and 25 were estimated to be 60 per cent.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FUHEIS FESTIVAL

Concert by Odeh Zyadat at the main theatre at 9:00 p.m.

* Several exhibitions on Jordan's tourism sector, Karak, the late Jordanian prime minister, Wasfi Tal, Al Ra'i Arabic daily's 25th anniversary, Germany's struggle against fascism, Orthodox churches, abstract, and children art.

EXHIBITIONS

Paintings by "Pioneers of the Fifties" Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikhly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Behjet at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.

* Paintings by Aneta Traikova at Alia Art

* "Exhibiton of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.

* Exhibition demonstrating the developments of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Apology to Majali ends controversy — observers 'Revival of land sales to Israelis issue is a way of trying to undermine peace process'

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

Amman - An advertisement placed in a local paper by the Nazareth-based Kul Al Arab newspaper this week apologising for printing an article accusing former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali of leasing land to Israelis was seen by some experts as the end of a seven-month- old controversy. Others, however, said it

was just the beginning of a

new one.

In the advertisement Kul Al Arab acknowledged that its news report, published Jan. 13, was baseless and fabricated. The paper said the report, which accused Dr. Majali of leasing, and members of the Majali family of selling land to Israelis before the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, was based on fabricated information that was leaked

by unreliable sources. "After close examination and verification of the information published in the report it became clear that the item was leaked by some people who seek to ruin Dr. Majali's reputation," said the apology which was run as a front page advertisement in Al Dustour Arabic daily last Saturday. "We would like to



Abdul Salam Majali

file a lawsuit against the

"We protested to the paper on the publication of fabricated information and insisted on filing a lawsuit," Mr. Majali said.
"I baven't had any contact

ly, Sa'ad Majali, a pilot.
"What made things worse was the broadcasting of the report on Israeli television," with my lawyer during this period, and we are still syndying the option of On Jan. 14, a day after the whether to drop the case," Kul Al Arab report was published, Dr. Majali's brother, especially after the publica-Lower House of Parliament

tion of the apology. According to Sultan Khattab, a columnist for Al Ra'i daily, the information on Jordanians leasing or selling Jordanian land to Israelis



ian families, including the Majali and Fayez families, are said to have sold plots of land to Israelis during the 1920's and 1930's, when Jordan was still the Emirate of

Abdul Hadi Majali

was published in a book entitled "Palesone: from the 1948 Disaster to the State of Diaspora" and written hy an Israeli before the 1967 war. In the book, some Jordan-

Transjordan.

According to Mr. Khattab, the information was dismissed by Ehud Ya'ari, a political analyst for the Israeli daily Yediot Ahranot. Mr. Ya'ari also works for

is "baseless" and is targetted at damaging peace efforts between Jordanians and Head of the Lands and

Survey Department Ali Gharaibeh confirmed that Israelis do not own land in Jordan, and that all records show that Jordanian land is owned only by Jordanians.

"Land ownership was not registered in the past," Mr. Gbaraibeh said. "But according to our records. there is nothing that proves land sale to Israelis," at any

Some experts believed that raising the issue now was aimed at destroying peace efforts between Arabs and

Israelis. Al Dustour Chief Editor Nabeel Sharif said the reason behind publishing the advertisement now, seven months after the controversial article was published, was a maner of technicali-

Dr. Sharif said that the Majali family had sought a formal apology, and that was something that was not easy to do in a couple of

ties.

days.
"Now it is over," Dr.
Sharif said. "The publication of the apology bas put

an end to the issue. It is a very positive step.

But Mr. Khattab, who is close to Dr. Majali, said that the publication of the apology at this time, especially after last week's endorsement of the laws to end the economic boycott against Israel by Parliament, was done with ulterior motives.

"The fact that the issue was brought up again now has serious implications," said Mr. Khattab. 'The people who are doing this are targetting Dr. Majali himself and the Arab-Israeli peace process in general."

Deputy Majali said the persons bebind the publication of such "rumours" are not West Bank residents but Jordanians. He also believed "they" sought to ruin the reputation of the Majali family in particular and the

peace process in general. "They are the enemies of peace. They intended to discredit Dr. Majali because he was the architect of peace,"

the deputy said. Head of the Jordanian delegation to the Jordanianlsraeli talks on water Munther Haddadin said that such reports, as the Kul Al Arab story, aim at "shaking the confidence in our great

Saddam assails defectors

(Continued from page I)

brought the Baath Party to power, Mr. Hassan was a child and was an officer with the rank of lieutenant when President Saddam Hussein took over as president in

Asked whether his defection would affect relations with the U.N. Special Commission disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire,

Mr. Aziz said: "Hussein Kamel held the administrative responsibility for the military industrialisation and had nothing to do with the political decision pertinent to the dealing with

the (U.N.) Security Council or special commission.
I represented and I still

do so the leadership in administering this relation. Therefore there will be no change in the relation from the pobtical point of view," Mr. Aziz

Mr. Aziz denied reports of "unusual military movements" in Iraq.

"President Saddam Hussein draws the prerequisites of his leadership from the love of the Iraqi people and his confidence in them and the (ruling) Arab Baatb Socialist Party and not from certain individuals whether they are his relatives or not."

in first 6 months of year — JCA AMMAN(Petra) —At total of 160 new contracting firms registered with the Ministry of Public Works during the

first half of 1995 marking a significant increase in this sector and bringing the total number of contracting establisbments to 1,435 according to the President of the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) President Mohammad

Murad Friday. He said the registrations followed the association's drive to enforce a law prohibiting any person or persons from

conducting contracting work unless the

160 new contracting firms register

entity was licensed with the ministry. Mr. Murad estimated the total capital of registered contracting companies in the Kingdom to be JD 145 million. His estimate of these companies' work in progress for the public and private sectors was about JD 792 million.

Mr. Murad said the credit facilities offered to the contracting sector amounted to nearly JD 718 million.

He said that despite the reduction in

the government's overall volume of contracting projects this year compared to last year the Jordanian contracting sector employs 60,000 workers, and contributes by nearly 18 per cent to the gross national product (GNP).

He said the contracting sector is involved in most of the 27 projects which the Jordanian government plans to submit to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference due in Amman in October.

Spain describes foiling plot to kill | South, North Koreas hold Juan Carlos as big blow to ETA

MADRID (R) — The Spanish government on Friday described the foiling of an ETA plot to kill King Juan Carlos on the holiday island of Majorca as an important blow against the Basque separatist guerrillas.
"It was a very important

operation," Interior Ministry State Secretary Margarita Robles told a radio interviewer, noting that it followed recent successful police action against ETA groups in Navarre, Barcelona and in southern France.

"Certainly the last few months bave been very positive for the fight against ter-rorism," Ms. Rohles said.

She suggested that the increasing weakness of ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) was driving the guerrillas to desperate measures.
"I think they are at their

lowest ebb and for tbat

reason they have to try plans like Majorca to show they are still strong," Ms. Rohles said. Police in Majorca on Wednesday night arrested three ETA militants with documents and equipment indicating they were planuing

to kill the king.
They bad rented an apartment near the Marivent Royal Palace just outside the island's capital of Palma and with a view over the harbour where the royal yacht was

Police seized explosives and weapons, including a rifle with telescopic sight, and documents showing the guerrillas bad made a detailed study of the movements of the royal family to and from their holiday home.

A total of 12 other people were arrested on Thursday io the French and Spanish Basque country in related police

Interior Minister Juan Alberto Belloch told a news conference on Thursday night the government be-lieved the king was the principal target.

"The information arising

from the arrests allows us to say that the main objective of this ETA commando was to carry out an attack on the

king," he said.

But Mr. Belloch did not rule out the possibility that the guerrillas might also have been preparing an attack on a summit meeting of European Umon (EU) of state and government sheeduled in Majorca in September. Spain currently holds the presidency of

the 15-nation union. Like Ms. Robles, the minister said ETA, who have killed some 800 people in a 27-year campaign for an inde-pendent Basque state. appeared to be turning to bigger targets to catch the limelight and force the gov-

ernment to negotiate.

He urged unity between all political parties to combat the guerrillas "because they do have the capacity to kill."

Mr. Belloch said police, belped by French authorities, had followed the movements of the ETA group led by 53-year-old Jose Rego Vidal for some mine months. They were under constant surveillance from the moment they arrived in Majorca by yacht

Mr. Rego, a long-standing



A police officer leads Jose Rego Vidal to a minibus on their way to the airport August 10 after the three-member commando of the Basque separatist group ETA was arrested overnight here where Spain's King Juan Carlos is vacationing. Police said they still do not know what the trio had been planning but added that documents seized on them showed they had been following the movements of the royal family and of former Premier Adolfo Suarez (AFP photo)

of involvement in plots against the royal family.
In 1974 he was connected with a failed plan to kidnap the king's father. Don Juan de Brgon, in Monte Carlo

and five years later he was

jailed for a year for involve-

Juan Carlos himself. Police and newspaper files show that the royal family bave been shadowed hy ETA several times in the past 20 years hut on no occasion have the guerrillas been able to carry through an attack.

BRUSSELS (Agencies)

France has agreed in princi-

ple to allow European Com-

mission. (EC) experts to observe its planned nuclear tests in the South Pacific and

will meet the EU executive

soon to discuss the tests'

has proposed that this meet-

the end of this month," com-

mission spokesman Costas

Verros told a news confer-

fied because the French gov-

ernment has accepted the

commission's request to orga-

nise an experts' meeting. The

French government has also

accepted the principle of an

on-site mission and of access

by that mission to the in-

stallation (at the test site),"

baving the meeting next week," he added.

its decision to stage up to

eight underground nuclear

tests between September and

May next year on Mururoa

The move, widely conde-

Atoll in the South Pacific.

mned by environmentalists,

provoked a diplomatic ruckus

with Australia, New Zealand

and several of France's part-

ners within trhe 15-country

to perfect computer simula-

Paris says it needs the tests

France announced in June

"We are going to soggest

Mr. Verros said.

"We can say we are satis-

should take place before

talks on seized rice ship SEOUL (R) — Officials from North and South Korea met tonnes of free rice to the Sam, marking the historic North to ease what Seoul says

in Beijing on Friday in a bid to secure the return of a southern rice-aid ship and 2I crew held by the North on spy charges, a South Korean unification ministry spokesman said Friday.

"A meeting started last night and is still continuing," the spokesman said.

The meeting is likely to go on tomorrow and we are making our utmost efforts to secure the release of the Samsun Venus and its crew," he

The domestic Yonhap news agency said the talks were making progress but the spokesman said he had no

detials.

Kim Hyung-Ki, the South's assistant unification minister for information and analysis. arrived in Beijing Thursday to try to contact a Northern

South Korea's state radio said Mr. Kim was now meeting Lee Song-Dok, a senior member of North Korea's committee for the promotion of external economic coop-

Vice Unification Minister Song Young-Dae was quoted by Yonhap as telling a cabinet meeting he believed the North would soon repatriate the ship and its crew. The ship is the second Soutbern vessel in Pyongyang's custody after patrol boats seized a trawler with eight crew aboard off the

west coast peninsula in May. Under an accord signed in Beijing last June, South Korea is supplying 150.000

is a chronic food shortage and to improve ties. Half already has been shipped to the Ahn said.

On Wednesday, North Korea abruptly told the South it would shelve a third round of talks on rice aid due to have opened in Beijing on

Thursday.

The North accused a crewman on the ship of illegally photographing port facilities when the ship docked at Chongjin a week ago and said he admitted spying.
The Samsun Venus, which

unloaded 5,000 tonnes of rice at Chongjin, was to have left the North last Sunday.

Seoul announces sweeping

in another development Friday, South Korea announced a sweeping clemency order, benefiting prominent politicians and husinessmen, to mark the end of World War II 50 years ago which liberated the country from Japan's harsh colo-

Justice Minister Ahn Woo-Mahn said the clemency for 3,169 people would include to 10 politicians, the founder of the giant Hyundai conglomerate Chung Ju-Yung, chairman Kim Woo-Choong of the Daewoo business group and 20 other husiness-

The amnesty applied mainly to those convicted of nonviolent crimes such as corrup-

"President Kim Young-

lear test site next year after a

vessels were underway or

preparing to cast off for

Mururoa to protest the prop-

osed series of French nuclear

Foreign Minister Gareth

Evans admitted Friday that

series of tests.

50th anniversary of liberation.... has decided to make a clemency order benefiting a total of 3,169 people," Mr.

He said the amnesty was to allow as many people as possible to take part in "a new leap forward" in national development and to celebrate the anniversary as an important turning point for the nation.

Mr. Ahn said 1,867 of the prisoners would be freed from jail on Aug. 15, the 50th anniversary of liberation from Japan's rule over Korea that lasted from 1910-45.

Another 426 prisoners will have their terms reduced while the rest, who have already been freed, will now have their civil rights fully restored.

Without official clemency, prisoners freed without completing their terms or those who have had their sentences suspended are barred from voting or running for offices.

Among prominent politicians benefiting from the order was Park Chul-Un, a

powerful relative of ex-President Roh Tae-Woo, who was convicted of accepting bribes in November 1993. Mr. Park, a lawmaker until he was found guilty of receiving 600 million won (\$790,000) from the nation's slot-macbine "godfather" Chung Dok-Jim in return for persuading authorities to allow Mr. Chung to evade taxes, was released on parole several months ago. He can

Belgian arrested

MANILA (AFP) - A Belgian oational was arrested in a resort town just outside the Philippine capital for suspected pedophilia, immigration bureau agents said here now ruo freely for elected Mururoa Pacific test site after the planned series of eight underground tests starting Evans, however, told reporters in Melbourne that the

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down on child abuse and

pedophilia continues, a state

BUENOS AIRES (R) — An Argentioe flight attendant was sucked out of an airplane over the high Andes oo Wednesday when the rear door blew open, police in the city of Cordoba said. Police mountain rescue teams were searching for the body of 26-year-old Lilian Almada m the Altas Cumbres Range of the Andes oear Cordoba after the accident on a domestic Inter-Austral flight. Police did not know the make of the

What a load of garbage

TOKYO (R) — Japan spent I.85 trillion yen (\$20.3 billion) to dispose of garbage in the fiscal year which ended in March 1993, Kyodo oews service said. According to the Ministry of Health and Welfare, that meant 14,800 yen (\$162) per person was spent on disposing of garbage, up 15.6 per cent from previous fiscal year, Kyodo said. Japan faces a growing problem with garbage because of a lack disposal facilities and government officials say drastic steps must be taken to reduce the volume of gar-bage, particularly in Tokyo

PARIS (R) - About 250 relieved workers at a French slaughterhouse ended a strike after partial victory over their boss's decree that they bad to go to the toilet at fixed times or lose pay. Staff in the "pee break" dispute at the plan in Quimperle, northwest France, were still threatening legal action over restrictions on going to the lavatory outs i d e n e w y imposed five-minute breaks. three times a day. The strike ended when the plant's owner abandoned a plan to dock 50 francs (\$10) from a work er's holiday bonus if he or she spent too long in the wahsroom or went at the wrong

Chechens accuse Russia of violating military accord

GROZNY (AFP) — The Chechen separatists Friday accused Russia of flagrantly violating the joint military accord signed less than two weeks ago and of preventing their delegation from attending peace talks here. Akbmed Zakayev, culture

minister in the breakaway Chechen government, acdespite an agreement under disarmament on both sides.

talks process to regroup its forces and prepare for a maor attack all along the frontine," he said.

He said there were cases of Russian forces opening up artillery fire on populated areas of the small Caucasus Zakayev also said the

Chechen delegation was halted Friday at a Russian military post near Roshni Chu, about 60 kilometres southwest of Grozny on its way to the talks. The row has been one of

the most serious since negotiations began, although Mr. Zakayev said talks would continue Saturday.

On Thursday, the Chechens walked out of talks to protest what they said

were Russian violations. NTV television said talks restarted shortly after, when the Russian side apologised

for blocking the Chechen delegation at a Russian post. The Chechens had said they were suspeoding talks because the Russians were not adhering to the prisoners

exchange accord. On Friday, Mr. Zakayev said that "the Russian side is

tion of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria and the members of the specially appointed (military) commission were again held up at a military post near Roshni Chu village.

The Russian side is also undermining fulfilment of various points of the accord, notably the exchange of forcihly detained people, on the principle of all for all.

The Russians also say the other side is failing to hand over prisoners, or even information on their whereab-

The chief Russian representative at talks on prisoner. releases, Colonel Vladimir Ivanov, said he gave-Chechen separatists octails about more than 90 captured Russian soldiers hut the Chechens bad presented a list of only five.

A shaky ceasefire has been

in effect since June 20, when the peace process began, but frequent violations have been reported by both sides. Chechen President

Dzhokhar Dudayev, believed to be less than fully behind the peace deal with the Russians, issued a decree Aug. 2 that officially created "a regular army, The rebels already claimed

their rag-tag forces, which put up a fièrce resistance against the Russian army for more than six months, was an official army, but the timing of the latest decree was seen as provocative.

"It proves a peaceful path is impossible for Dudayev," said head Russian negotiator Vyacheslav Mikhailov, quoted by ITAR-TASS.

Mr. Mikhailov, accompa-

nied by Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, left for Grozny from Moscow to restart high-level negotiations with the Chechens, although the exact timing was not

Since the military accord July 30, talks have been at technical commission level. Tens of thousands of Rus-

sian troops stormed into Checbenya Dec. 11 to crush a three-year independence hid led hy Mr. Dudayev. Between 15,000 and 30,000 people have heen killed, a majority of them civilians.

> tion techniques for future, non-explosive testing of war-

European Union (EU).

Commissioo involvement

in the tests procedure stems from the requirement in the EU's nuclear treaty for coun- albu As the diplomatic wrangtries to keep the EU-execu- (Iging continued, at least 14 -tive informed of the environ-

mental and health effects of

their unclear tests. The commission is still mulling over the question of whether it has the legal pow-"The French government er to do anything more than observe the tests. No decision is expected before Septem-

> In Sydney, Australia's prime minister and foreign minister were striving Friday to find a common line on France's reported plan to shut down the Mururoa nuc-

France agrees to allow EU

observers at Pacific nuclear tests

stralia as a victory over the French government on its unclear testing programme was nothing of the sort.

Earlier Friday, Prime Minister Paul Keating said he accepted at "face value" the French promise to shut the

of ouclear testing and close its Mururoa facility once it had finished its latest test programme in the South

the French government in-

tended to close the test site in

May did not reflect the real

He was referring to a state-

ment by French foreign

ministry official Yves Dout-

riaux on Wednesday that

France would stop all forms

position.

dor to the U.N. in Geneva Gerard Errera (right) speaks to the press at the U.N.-disarmament conference in Geneva,

August 10. Errera declared that France will continue its planned nuclear bombtest till May 1996 (AFP photo)

Suu Kyi has line for talks with military

RANGOON (R) — Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Friday she had a line of communication with the military government but declined to say if progress had been made towards the dialogue she has called for. "We do have a line of

communication with the authorities but until we think it is the right time I'd rather not comment on it," she told a news conference at her Rangoon home.

Ms. Suu Kyi, released from nearly six years of house arrest on July 10, did not say if there had been any talks with the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

After her release, Ms. Suu Kyi called for dialogue with the military, stressing the need for national reconciliation between the military and the opposition, including the democracy movement and autonomy-seeking ethnic

minorities. Ms. Suu Kyi said she was encouraged that her supporters had done nothing which might harm the chance of negotiations with SLORC. "We had indicated last

month that our intention was to get to the negotiating table and that nothing should be done that would in any way She pointed out that there

were no disturbances last Tuesday, the seventh anniversary of a bloody crackdown on protesters dur-ing a failed six-month prodemocracy uprising which swept the country in 1988.

"This is a sign of the maturity and discipline of the people," Ms. Suu Kyi said. She said she was pleased with the state of the National League for Democracy (NLD) Party, which she cofounded in 1988. "There's a lot of solidarity and unity within the NLD. We allow people to disagree. We are more united now."

The NLD swept more than 80 per cent of the seats in 1990 elections, even though Ms. Suu Kyi and other top party leaders were already in

The SLORC ignored the election outcome and launched a sweeping crackdown on all opposition to its rule.

Vietnamese official to visit U.S.

HANOI (AFP) — A top. Vietnamese Communist Party official is to tour the United States from Saturday in the highest level visit since the two countries normalised relations last month.

Hong Ha, chairman of the Communist Party external relations commission and a member of the central committee secretariat, will visit San Francisco, Atlanta, Washington and New York to hold meetings with U.S. officials and think-tanks.

A former journalist and now a leading figure behind Vietnam's foreign relatioos, Mr. Ha was invited to tour the United States for IO days by the Ford Foundation, which has organised a series of visits by top Vietnamese officials.

Mr. Ha will meet State Department and Pentagon officials and hold discussions with members of the Council of Foreign Relations in New York, according to Mark Sidel. Ford Foundation programme officer for Vietnam. had told Mr. Dos Santos dur-

Savimbi says Angolan war is over

rebel leader Jonas Savimbi said on Friday that Angola's 19-year civil war was over and the Angolan news agency said he would become vicepresident in a coalition government. "There are still (military)

actions which I see as minor incidents on the road (to peace). "As political will is the

determining factor, I consider that the war ... is over and we want to go forward to consolidate peace and to create the conditions for national reconciliation," Mr. Savimbi told Gabon-based Africa Numero I radio.

Angola's state news agency Angop reported earlier that Mr. Savimbi had accepted an invitation to become one of Angola's vice-presidents during talks with Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos in Gabon on Thursday. But Angop said Savimbi

ing the talks in the Gabonese town of Franceville the invitation should be extended to his movement UNITA, not to bim personally, "We (UNITA) accepted

the offer. But the formal offer should be seot to UN-ITA, not to Jonas Savimbi. We will wait for the formal letter of invitation," Angop quoted the UNITA leader as telling reporters after the

"What will happen if I die?" the UNITA leader added, when asked why the invitation be formally sent to his movement.

A peace accord signed between UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and the Luanda-government last November brought a tenuous end to 19 years of civil war that devastated the country, killed at least 500,000 people and drove a third of its 10 million population from their

Mr. Dos Santos told Africa Numero 1 on Friday that the wartime rivals had started the difficult process towards peace but said national reconciliation was no longer a

"We have begun a difficult process. there have been (military) actions but the scope of these actions cannot be compared with what he lived through about a year

"The government undertakes to be serious in carrying out its undertakings in the conviction that peace ... and national reconciliation will no longer be a dream but a reality in the coming months," the Angolan president said.

Mr. Dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi met in in Franceville, 550 kilometres southeast of Gabon's capital Libreville, to try to bammer out ti rebel leader's role in a future government, forming a single national army, and the establishment of a government with significant participation by UNITA. Diplomats said demobilisation of an estimated 75,000

UNITA guerrillas and around 100,000 Angolan armed forces along with the creation of a single 70,000 strong army were among the greatest obstacles to peace. The Angolan parliament passed a constitutional amendment in July to pave the way for two vicepresidents, one of whom was expected to be Mr. Savimbi. But the ruling MPLA party had insisted Mr. Savimbi take

over the post only if he dis-banded the UNITA army. Apart from sporadic out-breaks of fighting. Angola has been peaceful since the November peace accord and the United Nations has sent in the first units of a 7,600strong peacekeeping force. time,

Study urges Germany to let shops stay open late

BONN, Germany (AP) - A

government-commission study released Friday recommended that German shops be allowed to stay open until 10 p.m. on weekdays and 6 p.m. on Saturdays. The longawaited study by the Munich-based IFO Institute for Economic Research was expected to spark a heated debate in Germany, where many defend the current early closing hours as necessary to protect small shopkeepers and the family lives of retail workers. Germany has the tightest store-closing hours in Europe — 6:30 p.m. on normal weekdays and 2 p.m. Saturdays, with a few extra hours on Thursdays and some Saturdays. Pressure bas been huilding to modernise the law in order to create more jobs in the retail sector, stimulate the economy with more buying, and accomodate increasing number of workers doing evening and weekend sbifts. Parliament is expected to change the law in its next session, which starts in September.

for pedophilia in **Philippines**

Thursday. The suspect, iden-tified as Felix Vanden Haus, 57, a resident of the resort town of Pagsanjan, was arrested late Wednesday in the company of young children. Several photographs allegedly showing the suspect engaged in intimate acts with children were confiscated and will be used as evidence against him, the agents said. The suspect bad reportedly taken a number of children under his care, paying their poor parents to let him stay with them. The government. has been on an active campaign to catch foreigo pedophiles following news reports that many of them were coming to this country to take oadvantage of child prostitutes. A Briton 'a Frenchman and an Australian man have been jailed in the Philippines. statement on U.S. radio that where they face imprisonment of up to 40 years as a current government crack-

Argentine flight attendant sucked out of plane

airplane involved.

Relief at end of French strike over toilet breaks

cused the Russians of prepar-ing a new military offensive the military accord to begin violate the accord. "The government delega-"The Chechen side has incontrovertible evidence that the Russian side is using the

Study urges Germany to shops stay open

World News

DAY, AUGUST U

BONN, Germany (A) overnment combined (A) nended that Genta e allowed to stay one on weekday m. on Saturdays waited study by the heased IFO institute by omic Research ected to spark a betate in Germany. any defend the Cune of the family lives orkers. Germany ghtest store-closing ial weekdays and aturdays, with a le ours on Thursdays an

aturdays. Pressure le wilding to moderning order to create mo the retail sector, sp e economy with uying, and accomody easing number of t oing evening and be ifts. Parliament is to ehange the law in a ssion, which Slan ptember.

elgian arrest or pedophilia hilippines

ANILA (AFP) an national was arre resort town just out. nilippine capital bected pedophilia, as nursday. The suspen ied as Felix Vanden , a resident of the wn of Pagsanjan rested late Wedness e company of your en. Several photogegedly showing the gaged in intimate an ildren were confiscate Il be used as eve ainst him, the agem e suspect had repr cen a number of the der his care, paying or parents to lei his th them. The govern s been on an acme ign to tatch for dophiles following at rts that many of the ming to this country vantage of child es. A Briton, a Frea d an Australian ma en jailed in the Philip ere they tace in nt of up to 40 ver rent government: wn on child abus

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ENOS AIRES (R)gentine flight and sucked out of an any. r the high Ande dnesday when the: r blew open, policer of Cordoba said It antain rescue teams ching for the hot /ear-old Lilian Almai Altas Cumbres Rate Andes near Cordon he accident on a dom r-Austral flight !! not know the maken lane involved.

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(YO (R) — Japan 9 trillion yen (SM) to dispose of garbs iscal year which end ch 1993, Kyodo nes said. According stry of Health and that meant 14,800 2) per person was s isposing of garbage per cent from pres vear. Kyodo s n faces a growing p with garbage became k disposal facilité rnment officials say teps must be take ce the volume of :
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offer protection or prevent the incidence of violence." He said he had launched an investigation and that appropriate action would be taken against those found to have contravened the law.

fied authorities of "the in-

Safina member Paul Muite, a lawyer and member of parliament, told journalists that be recognised police in plain clothes among the mob, which he estimated at more than 300. He said the commandant of Nakuru prison distributed pick-axe hand-

PARADE OF SAIL. The Dutch threemast bank started Thursday morning with the Parade of

Europe (left) and the replica of the Dutch Sail, Sail will last until Sunday Aug. 13 (AFP

N. Irish police braced for

weekend Protestant parades

efire on Sept. 1.
The IRA truce was fol-

lowed by a similar decision by

Protestant loyalist gunmen.

Peace talks are held up by the

refusal of guerrillas to start

handiog over their weapons

until all-party talks on a set-

tlement are convened by Bri-

The weekend marches are

rich with the symbolism of

Protestant domination of

British-ruled Northern Ire-

land. Catholics say such

shows of sectarianism are

triumphalist and out of touch

with the new era of peace.

they will go ahead with mar-

ches that commemorate an

occasion in 1689 when

apprentice boys -- trainee

craftsmen -- closed the gates

of Londonderry as Catholic

King James 11 began a siege

of the city.

But organisers insist that

tain and Ireland.

VOC-ship Amsterdam meet each other in photo).

BELFAST (R) — Northern Into areas where they are not welcome will be abandoned," security operation at the said.

weekend to prevent troubles. Mr. Adams says the pro-at two potential flashpoint vince risks renewed conflict parades by Protestants celebilities there is a break-rating centuries-old battles. St. through in the peace process

province's second major city,

Londnderry, when an esti-

mated 25,000 Protestants

take to the streets in what

Catholic feel are provocative

and inappropriate parades.

take place against the back-

ground of deadlock in Anglo-

Irish peacemaking a year af-

ter IRA guerrillas balted a

25-year war to drive Britain

the IRA's political wing, Sinn

Fein, appealed to the Protes-

tant "Orange" movement on

Thursday to call off marches

which will snake through pre-

dominantly Catholic areas of

time in our history and after

everything that all sections of

our people have endured, wiser counsels within Orang-

"Surely at this decisive

Belfast and Londonderry.

Gerry Adams, president of

from the province.

The marches on Saturday

Hundreds of police will be by the anniversary of the eployed in Belfast and the Irish Republican Army ceas-

Amsterdam Aug. 10. Sail Amsterdam 1995

les and that prison warders took part in the attack. He also said he recognised members of President Daniel Arap Moi's ruling Kenya African National Union among the anackers.

"We havent't any doubt at all that it was state-instigated violence," he said.

Law Society Chairman Paul Wamae said it was time Kenyans were told there was no rule of law in the country, and members of the opposition was no rule of law in the country, and members of the opposition Ford-Kenya and Democratic parties issued a statement saying: "There is no way one can exonerate the government from this primi-

The seats were declared in anti-riot gear who only vacant after deputies boycotsupervised the beating."

Beijing executes 10 to ensure 'public order' at U.N. conference

BELIING (AP) --- More than 10 people convicted of murder, robbery and other crimes have been executed to ensure "public order" during next month's U.N. women's conference, the official Beij-

ing daily reported Thursday. China's security forces bave been rounding up dissidents and expelling jobseekers and peddlers coming into Beijing from the countryside as part of the pre-conference crackdown.

'To safeguard the capital's public order and ensure good public order during the upcoming world women's conference, the municipal first intermediate court quickly handled a batch of criminal cases," the newspaper said.

"After being approved by the higher level people's court, the executions were carried out."in recent days," the newspaper said. The condemned were led one by one to the killing ground. Criminals are usually put to death with a single gunshot to the

Four of those executed had murdered six drivers to steal their cars, one killed to avenge a fight and another went on a spree of 59 robberies in which threatened people or tied them up

The U.N.'s fourth World Conference on Women runs Sept. 4-15. A 10-day meeting of private advocacy groups the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Forum, opens Aug. 30. Government officials have portrayed the conference as an opportunity to showcase China as a rising regional

security forces have detained those political activists not already in custody. A private campaigned de-manding compensation for victims of Japanese atrocides

during World War II has

In the past few weeks,

come under intense pressure. The leader, Tong Zeng, has been barred from attending an NGO forum discussion group on forced prostitution during the war. Police detained him Tuesday for 24 hours and warned bim not to make trouble during the con-

The central and municipal governments also have ordered a crackdown on peasants coming into the city to find work. Tighter restrictions requiring temporary resideots cards have been issued and police have set up check points around the city.

missile test in a month BEUING (AP) — Experts say China's second series of

missile tests in a month will have little military value but rather are aimed at inomidating Taiwan,

The planned test firings of guided missiles and live artillery shells starting next week in the East China Sea north of Taiwan are the latest in a summer-long series of poliucal and military tit-for-tat between China and the island it views as a renegade province.

Beijing has been wary of Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui's efforts to gain greater international recognition for the economic powerhouse and was alarmed when Washington allowed him to make a private visit.

China started a threemonth military exercise on the coast opposite Taiwan soon after Mr. Lee's visit and then tried to increase the pressure with ballistic missile tests in mid-July.

The announcement Thursday of the next planned tests. due to start Tuesday and lasi for 10 days, came after Taiwan scheduled army, navy and air force exercises in October.

"This series of exercises is

meant to intimidate Taiwan," said Eric Arnett, a military technology expert at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

China to hold second

Although usually secretive about its military, Beijing re-ported the latest planned tests the same way it announced the previous ones: in a brief dispatch from the government news agency and on the national TV news.
"The Chinese People's Li-

beration Army will conduct exercises of guided missile and artillery live ammunition firing," the official Xinhua news agency said. Ships and airplanes were

warned to stay out of the designated waters and airspace in the target area, 100 kilometres north of Taiwan.

Experts say China tests missiles every year at this time, but normally notification is given quietly through diplomatic channels.

They also noted that there is little military intelligence to be gained by repeated firings of missiles. Six surface-tosurface ballistic missiles were fired in the last test.

In addition; China's military normally tests missiles on land, where greater secrecy international waters, so there is no need for the target area 10 be so close to Taiwan, the

"The East China Sea is a big ocean. They don't have to put it 100 clicks (kilometres) off Taiwan," said Bob Karniol, Asia-Pacific editor for

Jane's defence weekly. China's military is believed to have played a greater role in policy-making toward Taiwan and the United States since the foreign ministry failed to prevent Mr. Lee's U.S. visit.

Reports in the Hong Kong media citing unnamed sources have said China's top leaders have decided to keep the pressure on Mr. Lee and on Taiwan.

Presidential elections are scheduled for next year and China is worried that Mr. Lee or opposition leaders will win, spurring calls for Taiwan

to declare independence. Mr. Lee has moved his nationalist party away from its cold war-era claim to sovereignty over all of China.

The nationalists took refuge on Taiwan after losing civil Communist Party-led

Rival groups in Kashmir clash; one militant killed

SRINAGAR, India (R) — A Kashmiri separatist was killed and a Muslim worshipper wounded in a clash between two rival militant groups at a historic Muslim shrine, police said on Friday.

Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and Hizb-Ul-Mujahideen fired at each other late on Thursday at the Hazratbal Shrine in Stinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, army officials said.

Police said a JKLF militant was killed and a woman worshipper..wounded in the three-hour-long clash which began at about 9:30 p.m. (160# GMT).

The woman was among some 16,000 Muslims attendthe birthday of Prophet Mohammad, authorities said. The shrine displays what is believed to be a hair from Prophet Mohammad's beard. Security forces attempted

to evacuate the worshippers from the lakeside sbrine, which an estimated 200,000 Muslims visited on Thursday, officials said. The JKLF seeks Kashmir's

independence from India, which rules two-thirds of the state, and Pakistan which controls the rest. The Hizb-Ul-Mujahideen wants Kashmir to join Pakistan.

JKLF leader Yasin Malik
told Reuters this week bis

group was due on Friday to rejoin the all-party Hurriyat conference, which groups some 30 separatist units including Hizb-Ul-Mujahideen.

riyat during a siege of Hazrat-

in 1993. It was not clear following the fighting if JKLF would rejoin the Hurriyat as planned.

The clash between the two militant groups came at the end of a day of violence across the state, torn by a five-year-old separatist revolt against Indian rule in which police and hospital officials say more than 20,000 people have died.

A bomb blast on Thursday killed a state government worker stationed along a route taken by Hindu pligrims whose lives had been threatened by Harkat-Ul-Ansar militants.

A second bomb exploded elsewhere along the route, near the cave where the pligrims prayed to Lord Shiva. The JKLF broke with Hur- but no one was wounded, police said. Harkat-Ul-Ansar bal by Indian security forces took responsibility for the ex-

Harkat-Ul-Ansar said in a statement issued in Srinagar that it had set off two other bombs along the pilgrims' route, killing 18 paramilitary troopers in one explosion and wounding 10 pilgrims and 20 troopers in another.

denied those blasts. The militants are bluffing. They are totally lying," spokesman said. On Friday an elderly man

But the state government

was wounded when militants threw a grenade at a moving security vehicle in Srinagar, police said.

Some 30,000 pilgrims bave begun returning from the Amarnath Cave, near the spot where five Western tourists were taken hostage in

The Al-Faran militants holding the Westerners ignored appeals from separatist groups to respect Islamic teachings and free the captive tourists on Prophet Mobammad's birthday.

·We are in contact with the kidnappers over the telephone. But so far there seem to be no changes in the situation," one official said. "The government is playing a waitng game."

The governor of Jammu and Kashmir said two of the five bostages held by Al-Faran had apparently been wounded by their captors as they tried to escape. Al-Faran had earlier said two hostages were wounded in a clash with Indian forces, but the government denied any

Half of Japan's cabinet to visit controversial war shrine Oklahoma bombing

TOKYO (AFP) - Half of Japan's cabinet plans to visit a controversial shrine to the war dead on Tuesday, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, despite the threat of protests at home

and abroad. The Kyodo news agency said Friday that 10 out of the 21 ministers from the three ruling coalition parties plan to pay homage at Yasukuni

Shrine. The Shinto sanctuary, out-side the Imperial Palace, is dedicated to those who died in Japan's modern wars including wartime prime ministr General Hideki Tojo and other Class-A war cri-

minals hanged for the their World War II roles. Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) chief, and other top coalition leaders have said they will not visit the shrine on August 15, only a week after the reshuffle of the 13-month-old govern-

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono. who leads the conservative Liberal Democrataic Party (LDP), said he decided against the visit "considering the possible repercussions in foreign countries.'

The three coalition party leaders, also including Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura of the New Party-Sakigake, did not visit the shrine last year although seven ministers of the then government did.

Past visits to the shrine by Japan's premiers and ministers have sparked protests in China, South Korea and other Asian naoons which still vividly remember Japan's war atrocities.

Japanese citizens, including Buddhists and Christians, have also opposed the pilgrimage which they say violates the constitutional dictum of the separation of religion and the state.

Shinto was enforced as the state religion during the war with the emperor worshipped

as its demi-god.
Prime Minister Murayama and the five other ministers from his leftist party, known for its pacifist creed, have vowed not to visit the shrine this year, Kyodo said.

But many of the 13 ministers from the LDP will go, Kyodo added, including Construction Minister Yoshiro Mori, Minister of International Trade and Industry Ryutaro Hashimoto, Education Minister Yoshinobu

Home Affairs Minister Takashi Fukaya and State Minister for Defence Seishiro Eto.

"I visit the shrine every year, although not necessarily August 15,' said the new education minister

Mr. Sbimamura angered Asian neighbours Wednesday by saying it was not clear if Japan had waged a war of aggression in Asia and that Japan should not keep on apologising for its wartime

Mr. Hashimoto is nead of a nationwide association for families of the war dead which, with a membership of some one million households. bas given strong electoral support to the LDP which alone ruled Japan for 3g straight years until losing the 1993 general election.

The LDP cabiner ministers, however, stressed that they would visit the shrine only in an "unofficial capac-Kvodo said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka, a Social Democrat, told reporters Friday, "I wish cabinet members would refrain from making official visits by taking into consideration circumstances at home and in other coun-

Three indicted in

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Three former army friends with a grudge against the government have been indicted for the Oklahoma City bombing, the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

Timothy McVeigh, 27, and Terry Nicholas 40, each were charged Thursday with 11 counts in the April 9 bombing and could get the death penalty A 4,800-pound (2,200-

kilogrammes) fertiliser-and-fuel-oil bomb in a rented truck ripped apart the Alfred P. Murrah federal building, killing 168 people and injuring more than 500. Michael Fortier, a 26-year-

old who struck a deal with prosecutors, was charged with four lesser offenses and immediately pleaded guilty. He could get up to 23 years in prison in return for testifying. against the others.

All three men were in the U.S. army together at Fort Riley, Kansas, and shared a deep distrust of the government and a love of weapons. Mr. McVeigh, who was de-

corated after fighting in the 1990-91 Gulf War, was arrested by Oklahoma highway police 90 minutes after the bombing on traffic charges. Mr. Nicbolas surrendered to police on April 21 and was originally held as a material witness in the bomb-

The indictments followed a massive investigation by hundreds of agents into thousands of tips.

After initially focusing on possible links to right-wing militias oationwide, investigators concluded they did not have enough evidence to charge any others. Privately, a senior federal official said that the attack was probably not a right-wing conspiracy but the work of maybe five malcontents, only two of whom did any "heavy lift-

"We will pursue every lead based on the evidence. But we have charged everyone involved that we have evidenee of at this point," Attorney General Janet Reno said in Washington.

Lead Prosecutor Joseph Hartzler said, "The grand jury found probable cause to believe that there are others involved. We will continue the investigation."

The indictment does not specify a motive for the bombing, but prosecutors earlier alleged that McVeigh was angry at the government over the 1993 cult disaster at Waco, Texas. The bombing took place on the two-year anniversary of the assault and fire that ended in the deaths of at least 85 cult members. The grand jury returned the indictment in a courthouse across the street from

the blast site. The indictment details a plot daoing to September in which McVeigh and Nichols allegedly stockpiled ammonimum fertiliser and other explosives in Kansas and Arizona, planned the robbery of a gun dealer in Arkansas to finance the attack, and together built the bomb.

Mr. McVeigh is accused of detonating the bomb after parking the truck in front of the building.

The charges include using weapons of mass destruction, destruction of federal property, and the killing of federal law officers who worked in the building.
Mr. Fortier is charged with

knowing about the plot and not alerting authorities, and transporting stolen firearms across state lines. Authorities said he admirted checking out the federal building in December with McVeigh.

Mr. Fortier was taken into custody after pleading guilty before U.S. District Judge David Russell. He calmly admitted each offense and waived his right to a jury

Mr. McVeigh's attorney, Stephen Jones, warned against a "rush to judgment" and said he was concerned that for political reasons, the indictments and prosecutions of a limited number of 'drifters' will be passed off to the public as a completely successful investigation resulting in the arrest of all

ism (Protestant political society) will prevail and parades It lasted one year until 'Leakey tried to address rally before beating'

NAIROBI (AFP) — Kenyan police charged Friday that white conservationist Richard Leakey and other members of his opposition party had tried to address a rally in the central town of Nakuru before being beaten up Thursday by "angry members of the public."

The attack - blamed by Leakey and other members of the Safina (Noah's ark in Swahili) Party on ruling party youth wingers - was condemned by opposition politi-cians and the Law Society of

The Safina members and journalists, including a British woman — were attacked by thugs wielding rubber whips and pick-axe handles. Some were hospitalised, and cars were smashed.

Mr. Leakey said the Safina team had gone to Nakuru, 160 kilometres dissident in jail, and denied that they bad made any attempt to address Rift Valley police chief F.K.A Sang issued a statetive and cruel act considering ment however saying the the heavy presence of police Safina members had not noti-

State television on Thurs-"made it difficult for police to day evening showed part of a press conference by Mr. Leakey and other Safina Party members — he is the secretary general - but did show him removing his shirt to display a dozen livid scars.

Bangladesh opposition

DHAKA (AFP) - Bangladesh opposition groups have been meeting here to plan joint strategy, including another general strike, to

was ignoring "popular de-mand to dissolve the illegal

they vacated. The commission said the decision to hold them in December instead of September was taken because of wids-

ted parliamentary proceedings for more than 90 days. The opposition groups said the commission's ruling "violated the constitution and an Awami League leader, who asked not to be named, said nationwide de-

plan strategy to topple Zia

Protestant King William of Orange routed the Catholic

armies on June 12, andate

marked this yeanobygnigly

clashes between police and

Protestants trying to com-

A small march is planned

ing through Protestant areas

of Belfast but it will also go

down parts of the Ormeau

road where Catholic resi-

dents say they are holding a

music festival to keep it

Later on Saturday about

15,000 marchers and at least

8.000 followers are expected

to converge on the predomi-

nantly Catholic city of Lon-

donderry for the annual

apprentice boys march along

Bogside area of Londonderry

say they plan to disrupt parts

of the parade which bring

marchers to points overlook-

cided that they are not pre-

pared to allow a triumphalist

march," the chairman of the

residents association said in a

The residents bave de-

Catholic residents of the

the walls of the city.

ing their homes.

Saturday morn-

memorate that battle.

bring down the government of Prime Minister Khaleda tt would be the first time

the Awami League, Jaliya Party and fundamentalist Jamaal-e-Islamia, have planned a joint can paign. They said the government

parliament" and was conspiring to hang on to power. The focus of the latest oppósition anger is a decision by the election commission to delay by three months byelections for the 142 seats

pread flooding in the coun-

monstrations were planned for Saturday

Search for bodies of 65 killed in Salvadoran plane crash continues

TEPETITAN, El Salvador (AP) — Searchers climbed the slopes of a volcano Thursday to recover the bodies of 65 people who were killed in El Salvador's deadliest air Aviateca flight 901 took off

from Miami Wednesday en route to San Salvador and stopped in Guatemala City. It was approaching Comalapa Airport near San Salvador at about 7:30 p.m. when it crashed near the top of the Nicaragua, Palle Marker, and 7.000-foot (2133-metre) his embassy's first secretary, Chichontepec volcano, also known as San Vicente, about 37 miles east of San Salvador.

Aviateca did not im-

mediately release the names

of the 58 passengers and seven crew members on board. The Boeing 737 was to have gone on to Managua, Nicaragua, and San Jose, Costa Rica.

Brazil's ambassador to Nicaragua, Genaro Antonio Mucciolo, and his wife, Magdalena, were killed, said Victor Hugo Irrigaray, an official at the Brazilian embassy in San Salvador. Denmark's ambassador to

Peter Kragh, also were among the victims, the Danish foreign ministry said. The cause of the crasb was not known. Gladys Miranda

pilot Axel Byron Miranda Herrera, said Aviateca told her he had reported unspecified mechanical problems a few minutes before the crash. Aviateca spokesman Mauricio Rodriguez said it

de Valencia, the sister of

was raining "very, very hard" at the time of the crash. Heavy fog prevented helicopters from reaching the crash site Thursday, and bad roads stopped rescue vehicles miles from the wreckage. At six miles (9.7 kilometres) away, the village of Tepetitan

is the closest settlement to

the crash site. About 400 people were involved in the search, Mr.

Jordan Times

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Sound asylum

JORDAN'S DECISION to grant Iraqi Minister of Minerals and Industries Lt.-General Hussein Kamel Hassan and his brother Col. Saddam Hassan and their families and entourage asylum in the country is defensible morally and legally. When people so close to the Iraqi president choose to seek haven in Jordan, then there is little the Jordanian leadership can do except to grant them their wish, regardless of the political cost or benefit involved in the process.

For years now we have been hearing about one wave of repression in Iraq after the other with many Iraqi citizens literally put to summary executions for even the flimsiest reasons or for appearing to hold counter views on how to govern the country and deal with the aftermath of the Gulf war. The Iraqi people also have suffered too much and for too long because of the U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad as all efforts to ease their agonies have ended in vain. His Majesty King Hussein throughout this period has been making every possible effort to lift or at least to ease those sanctions often in the face of stiff opposition from several Arab and international quarters. Likewise Jordan has defended what Iraq has already done to meet its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions as more than sufficient to begin the process of rehabilitating it internationally and regionally.

There is also the legal side to this issue. Under international law, no state may refuse the defection to its territory of a citizen from a foreign country without due process of the law. The "non-refoulment" principle requiring governments to allow the entry of foreign nationals asking for political asylum when they allege repression and persecution or fear of basic human rights violations is so well established that it has become part of the customary international law. The case of Baghdad against according the Iraqi defectors asylum and safe haven in Jordan is weakened by repeated U.N. condemnation of Iraq's human rights record. Under the circumstances, Jordan had no choice under international norms but to grant the Iraqi people in question asylum pending the resolution of their status at a later stage.

This episode need not disturb the existing relationship between the two countries. Its fallouts can still be contained by the Iraqi government by taking appropriate remedial steps in the direction of making such defections unnecessary.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IBRAHIM AL Absi, a writer in Al Ra'i, accused the Israeli government of working against peace and of trying to make it impossible for the Palestinian people to regain control of their homeland. After more than 12 months of delay and procrastination, the Israeli government has not yet agreed on a programme for the redeployment of Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to make way for the expansion of the Palestine National Authority's (PNA) self-rule in these areas, said the writer. Having realised that the Palestinian negotiators did not give up the talks in the palestinian of Israel's tactics but have been showing despair in the face of Israel's tactics but have been showing patience with the Israeli postponements and delays the Israeli government resorted to new tactics, namely the settlers protests, said the writer. He said that the Israeli government, which had repeatedly stressed its desire to maintain and protect the settlements in Arab lands, has allowed the settlers to stage violent protests just to show the world that it is finding it difficult to end its presence in Arab terrotires and that the Israeli people refuse to give up the occupied land. But, the writer said, with such tactics, the Israeli government cannot escape from the moment of truth and has to know that a retreat from the path of peace and failure to implement the agreements with the Palestinians are bound to jeopardise the whole peace process.

A WRITER in Al Dustour called on the government to organise a national conference to deal with the question of university education in Jordan and to pave the way for granting all citizens the right to acquire higher education. Fakhri Kawar said that the state universities will this year accept only one third of those who passed the Tawjihi examinations, leaving the rest to face a grim future. While the state universities base their acceptance of students on the basis of grades, the private universities have a different criteria, namely the students financial situation, said the writer. He said that by allowing the private universities to accept only those students who can pay high fees, the Council of Higher Education is helping to keep the poor and deprived of education, simply because they cannot afford to pay for it. If the government cannot subsidise higher education as it has been doing with the basic food commodities, then, said the writer, it can at least interfere and put an end to the private universities greed for high fees and put an end to their lust for massing fortunes at the

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Jewish extremism poses real threat to Jerusalem's identity

THE RECENT ruling by the Israeli supreme court that Jews can "tour" the Haram Al Sharif complex, which houses some of the holiest shrines in Islam, cannot be seen in isolation from the campaign launched by religious and political extremists in Israel to "cleanse" the area for the "coming of the Messiah." The court ruling is the first step towards allowing the alliance, led by the Likud Party on the political level and half a dozen extremist groups on the religious level, to destroy the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock shrines in the Haram Al Sharif complex.

Although not much of it is public knowledge, tens of millions of dollars have been raised for these groups and spent on acquiring Palestinian land and buildings in Jerusalem. Now, the target of the alliance is to "prepare" the Haram Al Sharif compound, which Jews call "Temple Mount," to be the site for a Jewish temple where the Messiah could land after Aqsa and Dome of the Rock are destroyed.

For these groups, the presence of Muslims and Islamic shrines make the site "unclean," and, as such, the first priority of the Israeli extremist alliance is to eliminate

that presence.

The very thought of the alliance gives us shivers in Jordan. The groups could do serious harm not only to the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem but also to the entire Arab-Israeli peace process in the event of a Likud victory

in next year's general elections.

Some of the groups are also known to be plotting to blow up the Islamic holy shrines.

Now, the Israeli supreme court has allowed Jews to "tour" the area but not to pray there. In the future it could also "allow" them to pray at the site in what will be a fait accompli for Jews to preempt any logical negotiations on the future status of Jerusalem.

Overlooked in the whole affair is the fact that no Israeli court is legally empowered to make any decision concerning Arab East Jerusalem since the city is an occupied territory, where, under international laws and conventions, the occupying power cannot impose its rules and regulations.

But international laws and regulations have never dissuaded Israel from pursuing its own designs in the occupied territories. That, however, should not stop us from pressing our case in that framework in the international scene.

The latest we heard from the Israeli government on Jerusalem was the proposal by the minister of religious affairs that the so-called "Hebron formula" be applied at Haram Al Sharif. That means a sharing of the compound among Muslims and Jews along the same lines as the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

As far as Muslims are concerned, the proposal is nonstarter and should not even be discussed. Haram Al Sharif is Muslim and should remain Muslim. It is as simple as that.

At the very outset of the Middle East peace process, it was a well-known fact that Jerusalem would be among the thorniest issues on the table for the negotiators, but there was also an understanding that Israel would not change the status and features of the Holy City until negotiations work out a formula acceptable to all and

that satisfies the political and territorial rights of the Palestinians. The letter of assurance given by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat that Israel would not change the features of Jerusalem during the interim period as stipulated in the Oslo accord is the best evidence yet of this understanding.

As such, the government of Labour leader Yiithak Rabin cannot shirk its responsibility to ensure that no Israeli, extremist or otherwise, tries to violate this undertaking.

Very unfortunately. Israel has not lived up to that responsibility.

We recall that the Israeli government froze a decision to appropriate Palestinian land in Jerusalem early this year after an international and regional hue and cry. However, the fact was that it was the personal intervention by His Majesty King Hussein, through a letter to Mr. Rabin, that was the main reason that prompted the Israeli government to freeze the move. The reasons were obvious. First of all, the King reminded Mr. Rabin of the seriousness with which Arabs and Muslims view the issue of Jerusalem and warned that the entire peace process stood to suffer if Israel were to go ahead with the appropriation. Second, the King told Mr. Rabin, the Israeli move would pose serious obstacles to advancing the process of normalisation of relations between Jordan and Israel.

Over and above everything else is the reality that Israel cannot simply go ahead and do what it wants in Arab East Jerusalem. The city belongs to Arabs and Muslims in a religious and historical context.

For political purposes, the Israeli move to free the seizure of Palestinian land in Jerusalem was described as resulting from threats by Arab legislators to withhold support for the government in a confidence vote. But in reality it came from Mr. Rabin's understanding of the seriousness of the situation as raised by His Majesty.

Indeed, the Palestinians have their political rights in the city. And we in Jordan support those rights with all our might, and what we undertake to ensure that Israel does not preempt logical negotiations on Jerusalem by creating irreversible facts on the ground should be seen in that spirit by our Palestinian brothers.

Furthermore, we have seen that the Palestinians could be easily outmanoeuvred and manipulated by the Israelis. The repeated delays in implementing the Oslo accordspeak volumes in this regard.

That leaves Jordan to launch a fresh initiative to ensure that Israel does not create new-facts on the ground in Jerusalem. This would require Jordan to insist that the Rabin government adopt measures that would forestall any attempt by any Israeli group to interfere with the features of Arab East Jerusalem until the status of the city is determined through negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

The language that Jordan speaks in this context is not strange to Israel. If Mr. Rabin does not appreciate it, then he should also be prepared to the fallout — a total collapse of the very peace process that he has been nurturing since 1992.

Surprise shake-up is first fruit of cautious reform

THE SEVEN ministerial changes announced in Saudi Arabia last week represent perhaps the biggest shake-up in the kingdom's government since the assassination of King Paisal in 1975.

To most Saudis and the outside world, they have come as a surprise — though the militant Islamist Saudi opposition, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, which operates out of London, has known for some days that changes were in pros-

All of the ministers concerned count in Saudi terms as important civil servants, not as people exercising real power which is the domain of the royal family.

The ministers of defence, the interior and foreign affairs as well as the office of prime minister, which is vested in the king, remain in the hands of the Saudi family.

The Sands, who created the kingdom in the first 30 years of this century and named it after themselves, remain absolute rulers of the country. They are seen by ordinary Sandis as being "the state."

Last week's changes are related to a package of reforms, including the establishment of a consultative council (Majhis Al Shura), a set of secular regulations for government and changes to the way the provinces are governed, introduced by King Fahd in 1991 and 1992.

When these reforms were announced, the king said that in future ministerial appointments would be for just four years, rather than indefinitely, nnless he

particular ministry, be has liked to keep him there. Now, it seems that in spite of his age, illhealth and fatigue, the king is determined to push on with the process of very cautious change which he introduced in 1901

Michael Field assesses the

changes in S. Arabia

wished to make exceptions.

The first fruit of the new

system bas now been seen.

popular in Saudi Arabia,

not because the old minis-

ters were seen to be incom-

petent. Mohammad Abn Al

Khail, who had run the

ministry of finance for 30

years was able and highly

respected — but because

Saudis have become cynical

about the sheer immobility

of their government. The lack of new blood in

the council of ministers (the

cabinet) was one of the standard grumbles of young

Saudis — including young princes — along with the

poor quality of the media and, until the institution of

the Majlis Al Sbura in 1993,

the lack of any system of

The changes are not likely significantly to affect

Saudi policies, although

there has been mounting

concern over the ability of

the government to cut

spending and reduce its \$4

billion budget deficit, exacerbated by the \$60 billion

cost of the Gulf war which

wiped out most of the coun-

They are most important

as an indication of the

king's constitutional think-

ing. King Fahd has tradi-

tionally favoured continuity

seeing a civil servant in a

Having become used to

among his civil servants.

try's available reserves.

The changes will be

political significance of last

week's wholesale ministerial

Three of the individual changes are particularly interesting.

Hisham Nazar has been

replaced as minister of oil in part because he was due to retire. He had had 30 years in government, as minister of planning before he moved to oil after the dismissal of Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani in 1987.

In the latter position, he had offended some officials in his ministry and had been the subject of speculation about his dismissal. But, from the point of view of the king, he was a sound minister because he did as he was told.

His replacement, Ali Nuaimi, who has been in the production company, Aramco, for most of his working life, should be equally competent. As a former diplomat in London put it. "The main job of a Saudi oil minister is to go to meetings."

Snleiman Al Suleim moves from commerce to the ministry of finance with a reputation for integrity, which was also a characteristic of bis predecessor.

The replacement of General Ali Shaer as minister of information by his deputy, Fouad Al Farsi, could be the most important change from the point of view of the daily lives of Saudi.

Gen. Shaer, who was close to the king, saw his job in mainly authoritarian terms.

He had little time for foreign journalists and preferred that they be kept out of the kingdom. In managing domestic news, he saw it as his job to prevent there being any criticism of the government and to see, if possible that only good news should be served to the Saudi public.

He did not allow the Saudi press to report the Isaqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 until three days after it had happened. He was known by the public as "the minister of denials."

Fouad Al Farsi is believed to be much more
interested in promoting a
good image of the kingdom.
He is a public relations man
rather than a soldier and he
has been responsible for the
series of highly successful
foreign exhibitions of the
kingdom's development.

The Financial Times

THE WEEK IN PRINT

All Arabs must work to end suffering of Iraqi people

By Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic press last week gave prominence to the situation in Iraq, the Jewish settlers' attempts at storming the Al Haram Al Sharif and the Middle East peace process.

When members of the Iraqi President's family and closest military aides choose to flee their country and seek refuge in Jordan, one can logically conclude that the situation in Iraq has deteriorated to such a degree that the whole nation and not only the ordinary people is no more able to live through the ordeal any longer, said Saleh Qallab in Al Dustour. The writer said that no one can say that Hussein Kamel Hassan, the Iraqi president's son in law, has had no loyalty to his country or its leadership. But we ought to admit that the Iraqi people have been paying the price of the grave blunder of its leaders, said the writer. He said the time has come for the Iraqi people to live a normal life and the Iraqi regime to place the nation's interest above all other considera-

Also writing in Al Dustour, Mohammad Kawash said that His Majesty King Hussein's declared intention to exert efforts towards ending the plight of the Iraqi people and lifting the sanctions should be backed by all the Arab leaders. The writer said that the Jordanian initiative is designed to end the sufferings of the Iraqi people, stressing that injustice to the Iraqi people should not be allowed to continue indefinitely. The world community should free itself from the American hegemony and act in a humane manner now that the Iraqis have complied with all U.N. Security, Council resolutions, said the writer. He said that Washington should stop punishing a whole people and listen to the calls of

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said the United States stands out alone in pursuing efforts to maintain the sanctions on Iraq. With its adamant stand against Iraq, the United States finds itself alone in this position at a time when the whole world community realises that the Iraqis have complied with all U.N. resolutions, said the writer. At the same time, one can only sympathise with the Iraqi people, who, said the writer, are in need of political freedom and national unity and institutions that can guarantee the rule of the law in all matters. We bope that the Iraqi regime will reconsider its policies, cooperate with international organisations and win the support of all nations for an end to the sanctions.

Addressing the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab lands and the Jewish settlers attacks on Arabs and holy places, Tareq Masarweh said that the Israeli Supreme Court's decision allowing the so-called Temple Mount Faithfuls to enter Al Haram Al Sharif should not be forgotten because it was that court which paved the ground for the attack. The columnist, who writes in Al Ra'i daily, said that we should also remember that while the Arab and Islamic countries are silent about the attack, Jordan alone has voiced condemnation and it was the Jordanian leadership that had warned of such attacks and had sought to keep the holy shrines under its protection. The writer said that the Israeli court ruling is bound to open the door for the Israeli government to partition the holy shrines in Jerusalem between Jews and Muslims as it had done to the Al Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron.

Taher Al Adwan said that the Israeli leaders have obviously failed to change the Israeli people's stand vis-a-vis future coexistence with the Arabs because opinion polls have revealed

that the majority of Israelis do not support peace with the Arabs. The columnist in Al Dustour said that the attacks by settlers on the Arab population and their property and, above all. their holy shrines demonstrate the real hatred in the hearts of the Jewisb population against the Palestinians and the Arabs and Muslims in general. In comparison, said the writer, the Arab governments and the Palestine Liberation Organisa tion (PLO) have taken definite and irrevocable steps towards peace with Israel. but, regrettably, the Rabin government has made no reciprocal moves, hence, he said, are the on-going hos-tile actions against the Arabs in the occupied Arab

Condemning the Jewish settlers attacks on the Arabs in Palestinian land, Musa Keilani said in Al Dustour that the so-called Temple Mount Faithfuls are backed by Jewish and Zionist organisations around the world, which continue to pour into Israel millions of dollars. The writer said that these organisations are paid to uproot the Arabs from Palestine and achieve Zionism's objectives. The writer said that the extremists who have tried to storm Al Haram Al Sharif are the same elements who tried to burn Al Aqsa mosque in 1968 and who were behind the slanghter of the worshippers in Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. He said their attacks now are aimed at forcing the Rabin goveroment to partition the holy shrines between-Jews and Muslims.

writer in Al Ra'i, criticised the U.S. administration for failing to see to it that the Oslo agreement is implemented and for condoning the Israeli government's procrastinations in finalising an agreement with the Palestinians on widening the self-rule area in Palestine. The writer said that the U.S. administration is trying to shirk its responsibilities in matters related to the Middle East question but is committing itself to ensure the perpetuation of sanctions imposed on Iraq and Libya. He said that in exchange for our agreeing to a peace treaty with Israel, we find that the American president is turning his back to promises to pursue efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace between the Jewish state and the Arab countries.

Hussein Abn Romman, a

While the Israeli government is dragging its feet on implementing the second phase of the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians. it is allowing the settlers to commit atrocities against the Arab population and to squat on their lands and storm their holy shrines, said Mahmoud Rimawi in Al Ra'i daily. He said that the provocative actions of the settlers and the Temple Mount Faithfuls are bound to cause complications for the Palestine National Authority in its drive to wrest Palestinian rights from the Israelis. The writer said that while condoning these actions, the Israeli government keeps expressing its concern over security matters for the Israeli society and the settlers, who continue to occupy Arab lands, depriving their legitimate owners of their livelihoods and their homeland.

Taher Al Adwan, a writer in Al Dustour, said that the arrest of Musa Abu Marzuk in the United States for no crime he committed was an outrageous act and one that is bound to trigger confrontation with the Islamic movements in the Arab World. The writer said that as a leader of the political wing of Hamas, Mr. Abu Marzuk is no criminal but a freedom fighter and his arrest is unjustifed as he had broken no American law. He said that if anything, the American move was bound to cause further complications for the peace process, which it claims to be sponsoring.

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Sleaze rubs shine off Germany's moral halo

A string of corruption values of honesty and claims against business duty for a 'backhander leaders suggests that Ger- society,' Denis Staunton mans are abandoning old reports from Frankfurt.

AS A top businessman and board member of the Opel car giani. Peter Enderle was one of Germany's heroes, one of the men who built the country's wealth

and made it great again.
The company planned a
huge party to celebrate his 60th birthday last month; many of the leading figures in Germany's business and political worlds had been invited - to the Opel facrory at Russelsheim, outside Frankfurt — and the Federal Interior Minister. Manfred Kanther, was due to propose the loast.

But 48 hours before the big day. Opel announced that it was all off — the party was cancelled, and Herr Enderle departed for a sudden and unexpected

The first sign of trouble had been when detectives turned up demanding to search his home, his car and

They suspected him of being one of 40 Opel managers to have accepted bribes from suppliers in return for Opel contracts. The main accusation is that the Hochtief construction firm billed Opel for £9,500 worth of repairs to Enderle's home in Wiesbaden.

Mr. Enderle insists that he did nothing wrong but he resigned within a week, along with two members of Opel's supervisory board. News came from Detroit that another former Opel manager who was under investigation had committed

It was revealed a few days later that managers at Ford in Cologne and at Volkswagen in Wolfsburg had taken bribes of up to £78,000 from suppliers and that detectives are investigating corrupt practices at such pillars of German in-dustry as Siemens, BASF and Nixdorf.

These revelations of sleaze at the heart of the German economy have come as a severe shock to a nation which has traditionally revered industrialists and where economic success is seen as the central national achievement of the nast 50 years.

"It was our secret victory after the military defeat in the World War II and the moral defeat represented by Auschwitz, and this economic success helped to compensate for the feeling of inferiority felt by many Germans in the post-war years, according to Horst-Eberhard Richter, a German psychoanalyst and the author of a best-selling book about corruption.

"It gives us a sense of identity to know that the strength of the D-Mark makes Europe dependent on us, or that you would no longer be able to make Rolls-Royce or Jaguar cars in Britain if it wasn't for BMW buying up the fac-

tory."
The tall, gleaming temples of corporate finance which dominate the skyline of Frankfurt testify to the fact that this is a city dedicated to making, spending and macipulating money. According to the head of the city's corruption squad, Wolfgang Schaupensteiner. there are few things in Frankfull that money cannot buy.

A driving licence can be obtained for £1,300, he said, and £2,200 is the going rate for a residence permit allowing a foreigner to work in Germany. "Licences for bars, restaurants and nightclubs can all be arranged at a price and you can quite easily buy your way into a council flat. Everything is organised on a normal commercial basis,"

Mr. Schaupensteiner has uncovered more than 1,500 cases of corruption involving public servants in Frankfurt since his squad was set up in 1988, leading to almost 300 convictions and prison sentences of up to seven years. He says that, although Germany is still oo match for countries such as Italy in the correctpion stakes, the problem has grown at an astonishing rate in recent years.

'We have convicted mayors of towns for taking bribes. That is a develop-ment which would have been unthinkable in Germany a few years ago that a mayor, who occupied a relatively senior position in society, would allow himself to be bribed like some petty official ... Corruption now goes right through the hierarchy.

Fresh revelations of sleaze in German industry have been appearing almost weekly throughout the summer, often centring on companies and financial institutions previously regarded as above reproach." The public response to all these scandals has been strongly emotional and negative, says "Schaupensteiner. People are outraged that corruption can go on in the heart of society and they are fearful of the damage this trend can do to the

country as a whole." The news magazine Der Spiegel declared that Ger-

many was on its way to becoming a "backhander society" and the liberal weekly Die Zeit asked if morality in Germany was

going to seed. The Prussian public servant was viewed until recently as the embodiment of the traditional virtues of hard work, a sense of duty. orderliness, thrift and cleanliness. Germans were willing to forgive the officiousness of railwaymen, post office clerks and policemen who saw their reward more in terms of financial gain. Mr. Schaupensteiner says that. as public officials have fal-Icn in public esteem, they have hecome more susceptible to temptation.

'It is all about improving their standard of living houses, cars, trips around the world, a better life -and for that you need a lot of money. Most public servants are still incorruptible but too many are out to supplement their salaries in any way they can, regard-less of the morality," he

A German public servant who accepts a bribe can face dismissal or jail but the private company which cor-rupts him will often go un-punished. German com-panies that bribe clients overseas can write off the bribe against tax as a "necessary expense" and some management consultants offer seminars on sleaze, schooling executives in the legal world of brib-

The latest scandals come as German managers are seeking take off their stuffy, button... stuffy, buttonsometimes with untorpt. win, results. Jürgen Schrempp. the new boss at Daimler-Benz, hit the headlines last month when police arrested him on the Spanish Steps in Rome during a highspirited evening with two

large bottle of red wine. Mr. Schrempp's apology to the 250,000 employees of Daimler-Benz in Germany did nothing to allay public unease that the new management style may be getting out of control.
"I think the younger gen-

fellow executives and a

eration is very sober and modest but there is another level which wants exactly the opposite of the traditional German manager who is withdrawn and shies away from publicity," says Professor Herbert Simon, a former lecturer at Harvard Business School who advises some of Germany's top companies on strategy



The psychoanalyst Richter says that Germans as a whole have become steadily more egotistical, more competitively minded and less concerned with truth and honesty over the past 20 years, and he detects a sharp backlash against the old national stereotype.

RIDDELL

"The want to get away from the image of the wellbehaved, upright, dutiful German and all the pedantry and fussiness associated with it. The modern German wants to show he can be just as relaxed as an

Many German managers are impressed by the glamour of American businessmen, soch as Lee Iaccocca, who have become international celebrities. But the cult of the individual manager sits uneasily with a German corporate culture which has always emphasised company lovalty and the identification of . employees at every level with the firm.

The structure of most big German companies reflects the broadly consensual society which Germany has been since the end of the World War II. Workers' representatives sit on supervisory boards and most companies take seriously their responsibility for emplovees' welfare, strenuously avoiding compulsory redundancies for German staff, funding sports and projects. So, for most Germans, stealing from the company is tantamount to dipping into the pocket of

your fellow worker or your next-door neighbour. Klaus Franz, a workers' representative at Opel, says his colleagues were incensed when they heard that their bosses may have been taking bribes, particularly since these were the

very same executives who had insisted on painful costcutting.

"About the individual motives one can only speculate because in material terms these people did not need to do it. They were in such high positions that you would think power was much more important to them than material gain. The workers were very disappointed because they have made big sacrifices to cut costs and to keep the company profitable," he

Business analysts say the solution to Germany's corruption problem lies in introducing better controls over where corporate money is going and how contracts are being awarded. Improving auditing standards would help, but much of the responsibility for keeping a company clean lies with its supervisory board, which keeps a close eye on managers. The big German banks

have representatives on the supervisory boards of almost every big company, but when Deutsche Bank was contacted last week. nobody was prepared to talk about corruption. "What gave you the idea of asking us?" spluttered a spokesman. "We've got nothing to do with any of these scandals and you can easily get your fingers burnt by commenting on them.'

But Professor Simon insists that the banks bear a large share of the responsibility, not just for the rise in corruption but for largescale fraud cases such as the collapse of Jürgen Schneider's multi-billion-mark property empire last year. He says the relationship between bankers and businessmen is often too cosy for anybody's good.

distance from the people you're trying to control. If they belong to the same clubs and move in the same social circle as you it is more difficult to judge them properly. I think that was part of the problem with Mr. Schneider. Too many people were impressed by his glamour and by the par-

Mr. Schneider is currently sweating in a Florida prison cell, awaiting extradition to Germany on fraud charges following his arrest after almost a year on

Police say that Peter Graf, father of Germany's tennis star Steffi Graf, was also about to flee the country when they arrested him last week for alleged tax fraud. Mr. Richter says the claims against Steffi and her father represent a further blow to the German self-image as a nation of upright, incorruptible citizens.

Steffi was a role model for the Germans, an image of purity. You never saw her being inconsiderate. She never spoke nastily like so many others and now suddenly she is implicated in this corruption and we hear that she could end up in jail as well as her father. he said.

Count Johann Lambsdorff, an economist at Göttingen University who studies corruption, believes that the wave of revelations may have more to do with a new public awareness of the problem than with any real increase in sleaze. He says that, until 1989, the presence of communism behind the Berlin Wall means that West Germany felt under pressure to suggest that capitalism was beyond

reproach.
"Maybe for that reason more was brushed under the carpet in the past. It could be that the 1990s have seen a return to a kind of civil society and we are most alert and more determined to do something about corruption."

But for Mr. Schaupensteiner, the spate of scan-dals provides support for a message he has been trying to convey to businessmen for years - that corrupt practices can damage their company as much as society in general. He estimates that corruption in the building trade pushes up the cost of public works by almost 30 per cent and he says the long-term effects on the economy could be much more serious.

Corruption means hindering competition. It is not the company that performs best which wins the contract but the one that bribes the most. Why should a company bother to make better products if they can sell their bad products with bribes?"

The Observer

Traqis given Jordan asylum from sisterly Iraq, who chose Jordan — the refuge of the

(Continued from page 1) dam's hometown, and related to the president's father, had defected. But it was known that members of the Al Majid clan were engaged in a running conflict with the half brothers and sons of President Saddam for power.

In any event, the defections were seen as a serious blow to the regime of President Saddam and was taken as a strong sign of serious trouble in the ruling cricles in Baghdad.

International oews agencies reported from Amman and Dubai that Hussein Kamel Al Hassan, a general who was fired as minister of minerals and industries and as head of the Military Industrialisation Organisation, had established contacts with representatives of Iraqi opposi-tion groups and the U.S.

The U.S. government is interested in the fact that they defected, which we see as a major step... the most significant (defection) since the Gulf war," said an unidentified U.S. embassy official quoted by the Associated Press.

U.S. military officials and Mr. Hassan "are discussion information that General Hussein Kamel Hassan might have on Iraqi arms, especially biological and chemical," an

official quoted by AFP said. Serious talks bave not begun and should take place in the next 24 hours," the offi-

cial said. A number of meetings will take place in Amman.

The United Stares is very interested io any information that Gen. Hassan can prothe official added. Diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters confirmed U.S. officials were in contact with

The sources, also speaking on condition they not be identified, said the case was getting extremely serious treatment by U.S. officials. President Bill Clinton was personally involved, assuring Jordan of protection if Iraq issues threats over the affair.

the_Iragis.___

A former Iraqi general said in Damascus, Syria, that Hassan told him he wants to meet Iraqi opposition leaders to the Baghdad regime's overthrow.

Wafiq Al Samrra'i, who defected in December after President Saddam dismissed him as head of military intelligence, said Thursday he had spoken 10 Mr. Hassan by telephone in Amman.

He said Mr. Hassan told him he wants to get together with Iraqi opposition groups, which are mostly based outside their country, to "agree on overthrowing the present regime in Baghdad."

Mr. Samarra't told the AP no decision bas yet been taken by opposition leaders. but "we would support any step against Saddam's regime in order to rescue Iraq and its people.'

Meanwhile an official Jordanian statement said: "His Majesty King Hussein has graciously issued instructions to welcome them and take care of them as brothers children of the nation in good and bad times - as a place of residence and a safe haven where they find security and respectable life under the umbrella of its leadership." Informed sources that

and marketing.

Uday Hussein's visit here was aimed at settling the "differences within Saddam's fami-" that prompted the defection, but that no meeting between Uday and his sisters or brothers-in-law took

Diplomats saw there had been rumours of rising tension between Uday and Mr. Hassan, and that the "struggie over power between the two men could no longer be contained.

They said Mr. Hassan was a powerful figure in the Saddam cabinet who was responsible for the development of the secret Iraqi weapons programmes in the 1980s and was placed this June in charge of the key area of military industry.

An official statement said that King Hussein met with an Iraqi delegation that includes Uday Saddam Hussein, Ali Hassan Majed, an advisor to President Saddam, and several Iraqi officials. "They discussed the arrival

of several Iraqi officials to Jordan and their request to remain in the country," the statement said. However, saying that the

decision to grant the party asylum "has no bearing on Jordanian-Iraqi relations, Foreign Minister Kabariti told the Jordan Times. The question of handing them over was "immentionable."

he said, adding that "it was their choice (to come here) and we have expressed our acceptance of whatever the Iraqí people accept for them-

Washington on Thursday announced that the U.S. supports Jordan's "courageous" move in granting the Iraqis refuge. U.S. President Bill Clinton told a press conference at the White House that the "U.S. will back Jordan' if it comes under any threat

from Iraq. The American leader said that be received a telephone call from King Hussein concerning the defectors on Tuesday.

"King Hussein's decision, located where he is, to grant asylum to those individuals is clearly an act of real courage, and I have assured him and told him that we would stand behind Jordan," Mr. Clinton said at a White House news conference.

Mr. Clinton said he had discussed the defections with King Hussein in a telephone conversation on Tuesday night, and that while he did not want to create undue alarm about possible retaliation, the situation had to be worrisome for Jordan because "we know that Saddam Hussein has been unpredictable in the past."

"It should be clear that the United States considers Jordan our ally and entitled to our protection if their security is threatened as a result of this incident," he said. Mr. Clinton reminded re-

porters - and at the same time, warned Baghdad --that the United States can rapidly project military power in the Middle East, as was shown last fall when Iraq threatened to reinvade Kuwait.

As if to underline his pledge to Jordan, the De-fence Department said U.S. Marines would conduct scheduled manoeuvres with Jordanian forces beginning

Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said the August 14-30 joint exercises in and near Jordan had been planned be-fore the Iraqi defections. In what politicans see as sign that Baghdad was not

contemplating any aggression against the Kingdom, the Ira-News Agency (INA) reported that President Saddam congratulated King Hussein on the anniversary of his accession to the throne. It said that a congratulatory cable from the Iraqi president to the King wished for "continued progress and growth for the fraternal ties between the two countries.'

He added his wishes "to see the brotherly relations between Jordan and Iraq develop and strengthen to the benefit of our two peoples and the entire Arab Nation." The telegram concluded peace be upon you, your

brother, Saddam Hussein." Mr. Hassan has been quoted by official sources as accusing the Iraqi regime of losing all credibility both on the Arab and international scales," and that he has already started contacts with other Iraqis both in and outside Iraq to help end the suffering of the Iraqi people by "formulating programme that guarantees radical changes to the situation in Iraq."
1NA reported Thursday that the industry minister has been dismissed but gave no reason for the decision, which reports from Baghdad said was issued after President Saddam found out about

the defection. 'General Hussein Kamil Hassan, minister of industry and minerals and director of the military industrialisation organisation, has been relieved of his post," INA said, adding that the decree was issued Wednesday and announced Thursday. According to informed

lected the signatures of onefourth of Israel's 120 legislators needed to call parliament back from summer recess for a special debate on the partial agreement. The debate was

"This is an accord of surrender, made by a government that has no mandate and no popular majority." a Likud statement said.

On prisoners, Mr. Peres said numbers weren't discussed. The criteria for release would be discussed later. Some 6.500 Palestinians are held in Israeli jails, most on charges of anti-Israeli violence or membership in formerly outlawed groups.

Mr. Peres said he suggested a number of solutions for Hebron. Mr. Arafat is holding out for a complete enough.

sources, Mr. Hassan and his companions crossed the Iragi border into Jordan by land as they would have been unable to fly out of Iraq due to United Nations sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Mr. Hassan is the third relative of President Saddam Hussem to be dismissed from the cabinet in three and a half months. The previous ministers to go were Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim Al Tikriti and Defence Minister Ali Hassan Majeed, President Saddam's half brother and cousin respectively.

Israeli troop withdrawal from

Hebron, but Israel has said it

needs soldiers in the city to

Hebron Mayor Mustafa

Israel, PLO clear hurdles

(Continued from page 1)

lish the full agreement before protect the settlers. it is signed. "I think that the Palesti Also Friday, Likud colnian Authority has made it an issue to prove that it is put ting up its strongest political battle for Hebron," Mr. Peres said Friday.

Natche said there was broad to be held next week. support among Palestinians

for Mr. Arafat's refusal to back down on Hebron. "This gives Mr. Arafat more confidence from the people here," Mr. Natche told Israel Radio, suggesting that the city's Jewish settlers move to the nearby settle-

ment of Kiryat Arba. Jewish settlers swore never to leave the city. The emerging accord was

received with criticism among Palestinian factions in Damascus, who said the proposed redeployment of Israeli forces did not go far

Big powers

(Continued from page 1)

"But we'll bring the hell back to the Croats," vowed Ms. Trpcevic, a native of Topusko, a town just south of Zagreb. Vengeance, that's what most of those people have on their minds. As she spoke, hundreds of

refugees drove vehicles with broke wiodows into Dobanovci, some 30 kilometres west of Belgrade, where Serbian authorities had set up registration and reception About 800 refugees an

hour arrived during Friday morning. Local Red Cross officials said 80,000 refugees had arrived in Serbia since the Croatian army attacked rebel-held areas one week ago, setting off the biggest civilian exodus in four years of war in the former Yugosla-

Police and soldiers protected the columns of defeated Serbs after angry mobs stoned refugees, prompting a sharp rebuke to Zagreb by the United Nations Security Council.

Ugly scenes on Wednesday as the first refugees laft the former frontline Croat town of Sisak io long convoys of cars, trucks and tractors denied Croatia's pledge that the departing Serbs would be properly treated.

The first columns of around 200 vehicles, many carrying rebel Serb soldiers still in camouflage uniform, limped into Serbia with burst windshields and car windows I shattered.

Jordan reaps peace dividend in increased tourism

AMMAN (AFP) — Peace came in the same period of with Israel has given a shot in the arm to Jordan's longdormant tourist industry as tens of thousands of more visitors a year, including 1sraelis, come to see the country's sites.

"Peace has obviously encouraged tourists coming from Israel, the United States, Canada and Europe to visit Jordan," Tourism Mioister Abdul Ilah Khatib told AFP.

The oumber of tourists shot up to 446,000 in the first half of 1995, some 40 per cent higher than the 317,000 who

the world's biggest oil expor-

ter, is seeking to become a

mined 7.6 tonnes of gold ore

and imported 70 tonoes,

which it turned into jewellery

and other products sold at

home and to other Golf

states, Ahmad Yunes, a rep-

resentative of the World Gold

output with South Africa's or

the United States, the second

higgest producer," Mr.

Yunes said. Of the 2,296

tonnes produced worldwide

in 1994. South Africa

accounted for 584 tonnes and

the United States 331 tonnes.

great potential and could join

WASHINGTON (AP) -

The American economy is

expanding moderately in

some parts of the country

while in others growth practi-

cally has come to a standstill,

An influential survey of

husiness conditions conducted by the Federal Re-

serve (Fed) gave a mixed

larly the auto and

construction-related indus-

tries, continues to slow in

up in some districts and in-

veningles generally are consi-

"However, orders are

the report

"Manufacturing, particu-

the government has said.

"But Saudi Arahia has

"You can't compare this

Council, told AFP.

1994, Mr. Khatib said.

"The tourism sector, which brought in \$60 million in receipts in 1994, should earn even more in 1995 with the higher numbers of visitors,' he added.

Some 52,000 Israelis — 11 per cent of all the visitors in the first half half of 1995 ventured across the border that had beeo closed to them for 40 years until the peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

Most take short overnight trips, especially to the Nabataean city of Petra in the south or the Roman ruins of Jerash north of Amman.

Jordaoian eoterpreneurs have moved to adapt to the new cheotele. In early June, one Amman husinessman converted his restaurant into the country's first kosher establishmeot.

"The tourism industry has beeo somewhat neglected in past years," Mr. Khatih said. But it shoold see a leap forward in the future. The archaeological and natural potential is great and has not been well exploited."

Jordan boasts some 600 antiquity sites, the most famous of them Jerash and Petra, a 6th-century B.C. "lost city" carved in the rosecoloured rock of Jordan's southern mountains.

"Dozens of investors" are also honing in on the Jordaman side of the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Agaba at the Kingdom's extreme south as prime tourism zones.

A total of 25 new hotels are currently being built across the country, with a total investment of \$83 millioo. They will add 3,883 beds to the current capacity of 15,400. Much of the new invest-

ment focuses on the port of

reserves, with a density of 2.5

gramme (.0875 ounces) per

3.5 million tonnes at 25 gram-

mes (.085 ounces) per ton-

ne, Al Hajar in the south has

six million tonoes at 3.5

grammes (.1225 ouhces) per

tonne and Al Sug in the

centre has three million ton-

ounces) per tonne.

nes at 5.5 grammes (.1925

In Jone, Sheikh Nazer

"More than 28 million ton-

urged Saudi husinessmen to

invest in the mining industry.

nes of minerals, especially

Al Amar io the centre has

Aqaba, which tourism developers see as part of a new 'Golf Riviera," stretching from Aqaba, through the Israeli port of Eilat to the Egyptian Sinai resort of Sharm Al Sheikh.

"Our policy is to seek a balance between preserving archaeological and natural sites and exploiting them economically," said Mr. Khatih.

The tourism minister said Jordan would also seek to draw more tourists from the wealthy Gulf monarchies, pointing out that their num-bers remained constant at

gold, phosphate, zinc, copper

and bauxite were extracted

from Saudi territory in 1994,

generating \$533 million in net

proven reserves of phosphate

are estimated at nearly eight

hillion tonnes, should be-

come one of the biggest pro-ducers in the world," Sheikh

over the next several years to produce around 28,000 ton-

nes of zinc and 8,000 tonnes

of copper, according to offi-

Hong Kong's affluent image marred

by growing rich-poor gap — survey

Saudi Arabia also plans

"Saudi Arahia, whose

profit," he said.

Nazer said.

185,000 in the first halves of 1994 and 1995.

"Bot we're hoping their nnmbers will grow as relations warm up," Mr. Khatih

In June, Saudi Arabia reestablished diplomatic ties with Jordan which were cut off after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in Angust 1990, when Amman was seen as taking a pro-Baghdad stance.

Jordan, Syria and Lebanon recently signed an accord to launch a joint tourism publicity campaign in the Gulf countries, Mr. Khatih said.

The kingdom also contains

Arah Gulf countries, like

nearly 20 millioo tonnes of

copper ore and 100 million

Bahrain and the United Arah

Emirates, which have found-

aries, currently import haux-

In 1994, Riyadh invested oearly \$4.131 billioo in its

miming industry, and it plans

to expand the sector by nine

per cent over the next five

for four per cent of the coun-

try's gross national product.

lem in our society and should

not be viewed as the misfor-

"Never have they been challenged with high inflation, exorbitant land prices,

tune of individuals."

Mining already accounts

years, Sheikh Nazer said.

tonnes of bauxite ore.

ite from Australia.

Dollar shoots up to 5-month high vs.yen

TOKYO (R) — The dollar shot to a five-month high against the yen and surged against European currencies Friday, powered by political and technical factors, although the rally cooled off late in the day.

The dollar surged above the key 93 yen barrier and overcame resistance at 1.4250 marks in Tokyo trade, propelled hy heavy hids by overseas operators that helped the dollar accelerate its recent upward swing.

The Japanese government welcomed the yen's renewed retreat, with Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto telling reporters he wanted the dol-lar to make up still more ground on the yen. By midday the dollar had

hit 93.80 yen, its highest level since March 6, before falling back slightly oo profit-taking and exporter sales. It was quoted at 93.25/35 yen at 0828 GMT.

It also rose as high as 1.4320 marks, its highest against the German currency since Juce 1. It eased later, and was quoted at around 1.4277/82 marks

The dollar also jumped agaiost the Swiss franc, touching a high of around 1.1882 against a New York close of 1.1760/70.

Although the dollar has risen sharply against the yen over the past few days, its weakness against the mark and other European curreocies had kept a lid on gains. But dealers said Friday's move seemed to signal a genuine upward trend.

"You can definitely say today's dollar is strong across the board, and ... it will probably rise very fast," said Tomio Kudo, chief customer dealer at Dresdner Bank A.G. in Tokyo.

Five months ago, the dollar fell very suddenly from

around 96 yen to 91 yen with no resistance. This created a vacuum through which it may rise even faster than we expect," echoed Mitsuru Saito, deputy general manager at Sanwa Bank Ltd.

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profit last year a

registered in it

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1994 as the NEE'

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Aviation Authority at JD 218,000. The

JO 218,000. The market activate working for the companies as be having 62 new or instead of the four now being used at the est of the airfreight. The volume of freight the amport, which are to 720,070 to which are

the arrow, which are to 720,070 tonnes of a addition to 1.14 million rammae of mail in the comment of the comme

rammes of mail, is ex-to increase in the near

saved the treasury million during the financial interest and the bureau from t

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ports totalised \$87.

Last week's surprise ministry of finance deregulation package to promote overseas investment, combined with joint dollar-buying interven-tion by the United States and Japan, appeared to be taking effect, with Japanese life insurers and other investors increasing overseas holdings.

he added. Another factor behind the dollar's sudden strength appeared to be fresh instability in the Middle East and the continuing crisis in Bosnia, Dresdner's Kudo said.

The dollar had lost muchof its traditiocal status as a "safe haven" in times of political instability, but receot U.S. economic strength seems to have reversed this trend, Mr. Kudo said.

"The U.S. ecocomy is firm and the government is fairly stable as well, certainly more than Japan's. This is reviving the dollar's attractiveness as a 🐞 safe haven," he added.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin's comments Thursday that a strong dollar is in the best interests of the U.S. recalled similar statements made by Japanese officials when the dollar climbed back to the 90 yen level last week, increasing market perceptions that both countries are sincere in maintaining a strong dollar, dealers

Technical factors also fuelled the dollar's gains.
Dresdner's Kudo said:

"The combination of all these things has been very good for the dollar. And I now see little in the way of a fairly quick rise to 95.00 yen and 1.4500 marks."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATUR-**DAY, AUGUST 12, 1995**

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Highter bn. Foundation ARIES: (March 21 to April

19) You can be very creative today so make your plans wisely, and follow through with them. Listen to the ideas TAURUS: (April 20 to May

20) Think of home and family today, and make your abode 🦨 a heavenly and restful place. Do some entertaining with your mate for some good

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You know the right way to gain more cooperation today from regular allies and thereby become more successful. Get your desk tasks bandled

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Concentrate on making the most wise plan possible today so that you add considerably to your assets. Take it easy

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Yoo are dynamic today and should contact those persons from whom you desire favours, and you can easily gain them with a smile.

VIRGO: (Angust 22 to September 22) Study your overall amibitions today since you are too overwhelmed with details and could lose sight of what is truly impor-

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get into social affairs which truly intrigue you today, and the evening can be a memorable one. Be more sure of yourself.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Yoo can accomplish much in the out-side business world today so get an early start. Shop wisely and handle civic matters.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You like to think big and this is the right day for that because you can accomplish something worthwhile in your life.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may get so involved with specifics that you could forget the motives behind your under-takings.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Early today find out what your associates expect of you, and then got busy and try to please them. for you to succeed.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be more enthused about whatever you may be doing today and gain the cooperation of fellow associates. Avoid one who is jealous of you.

Birthstone of August: Peridot - Golden Quartz

Saudi Arabia seeks to become major gold producer the cluh of big producers in a few years hy developing sites DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) - Saudi Arabia.

major gold producer by developing some 900 sites, offi-"It won't be easy to decials and industry experts velop them, though, and it will require large invest-Last year, Saudi Arahia

believed to contain this pre-

cious metal." Mr. Yunes

ments and equipment," he King Fahd Saturday reminded the new cabinet be appointed last week that Saudi Arabia, in addition to its vast oil reserves, had "under its surface precious

minerals like gold.' And during a conference in June on investing in mining, the then oil minister, Hisham Nazer, said there were at least 782 sites where gold was the main metal aod 153 others where it was present to

He estimated Saudi Arabia's proven reserves at more than 20 million tonnes.

dered to be at acceptable

book," a periodic sorvey,

appears to support other data

that shows the economy has

slowed dramatically. But

there are few signs that a

recession is likely, private

analysts and government eco-

the total of all goods and

services produced in the Un-

ited States, was virtually flat

in the second quarter of the

year. Analysts have said they

expect a modest improve-

meet in the current quarter.

The survey, concluded July

Gross domestic product,

The Fed's so-called "heige

U.S. economy expanding slowly

to moderately, survey says

ievels.

nomists say.

Mahd Ai Zehab (the cradle of gold), 280 kilometres northeast of Jeddah, contains 1.2 millioo tonnes of proveo ore reserves, with a density of 31 grammes (1.085 oooces) of gold per tonne and 73 gram-mes (2.555 ounces) of silver per tonne.

Its output increased from I.6 tonnes of gold in 1988 to 5.1 tonoes in 1994 and revenues rose from \$5.89 million to \$29.49 million in the same period, according to figures from the petroleum and mineral resources ministry.

Mahd Al Zehah has produced 25 tonoes of gold since it went ioto production in

Skhihrat, which is the country's second higgest gold produciog site aod 330 kilometres northeast of Medina, contains an estimated 8.4 million tonnes of

31 hased on reports from the

Fed's 12 regional banks, said

most areas of the nation

"continue to report economic

expansion, although in some

areas the rate of expansion

has moderated recently. The

upper midwest, southeast

and west continue to expand.

Other areas are experiencing

The survey also said retail

sales are up slightly in about

half the country and are slug-

gish or declining elsewhere.

increases appears to be mod-

crating" for materials and supplies.

Inflation pressures remain,

little or no growth.

HONG KONG (AFP) The gap between the rich and the poor is growing in Hong Kong, tarnishing its image as an affluent society, a survey

The survey, commissioned by charity group Oxfam Hong Kong, showed the gulf between rich and poor in Hong Kong was far wider than in Taiwan and Singa-

The survey showed an estimated 15 per cent of 230,000 households had a monthly income less than 4,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$518). Social Welfare Depart-

ment statistics appeared to



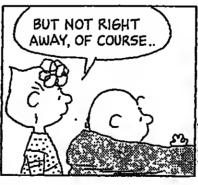
"I met someone on the Internet who shares the same interests as me. Boy, what a boring guy!"

ecocomic restructuring and a whole chain of problems, in support Oxfam's findings. which the hardest hit are the They showed the number of lower income groups," he public assistance recipients climbing from 98,300 in May 1994 to 112,900 in May this Gini coefficient, an index measuring the income gap — jumped from 0.451 in 1981 to The 72-page Oxfam study, authored by Lui Tak-lok. 0.476 in 1991. In Taiwan and Chinese University sociology Singapore, the index was helecturer, concluded that tween 0.3 and 0.4. respective-"poverty is a structural prob-THE BETTER HALF,

THAT SCRAMPLED WORD GAME JUMBLE. by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginion Unscramble these four Jumbles, can't do anything Your erdinary words. TYMPE DESET DYSTUR UNHAPPY WITH HER HAIR LEFT HER LIKE THIS. RAGIST Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as sug-gested by the above cartoon. Yesterday's Jumbles: JULEP WAGON NUTRIA MEDLEY

Peanuts







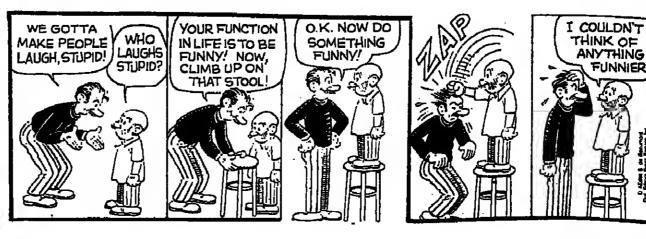
Answer: Why the bride was such a success at the wedding

ceremony - SHE WAS WELL "TRAINED"

Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin **ACROSS** 1 Accumulate 6 - and crafts 10 Pipe residue 13 Move furtively 14 Booty 15 Movie dog 16 "For want of ~ 17 Ratio words 18 Move about 19 Baptism ceremony 21 Breathe in short gasps 22 Memo 23 Appear 25 Coronet 29 Fragrance 30 Jai 31 Stage item 34 Stage whisper 61 62 38 Chutzpah 40 Table leaving 41 Weary 42 Spirited horse 68 43 Dramatis per-© 1995 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved. sonae 45 Arabian sul-Puzzle solved: 6 Tilting tanate 7 "Sweet SOLARECAST AWARECOXEN 46 Danger GASP

48 Top — (main comedian) 50 Pendant orna-

ment 53 in order 55 Opposed 56 Pleasure tour 61 Mindanao

native 62 QED word 63 Surpass Blissful place 66 Hollow

67 Lariat 68 Morning mois ture 69 One who ogles 28 Pastime 70 Demi-

DOWN

2 Skirt style 3 Eden inhabitant

1 Happy — lark

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O'Grady" (old song) 8 Dorothy's dog 9 Intoxicated

11 Bee's weapon 12 Author Bret 15 Malicious statement 20 Cavort 24 Castle ditch

10 "- Is Born"

25 Rather and Duryea 26 "- a song go

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ast week's suprise of finance delegate to promote our structure.
structure to combined t dollar-huying ime hy the United State an, appeared to be to the state and other investigation overseas how added.

nother factor behing lar's sudden stres eared to be fresh inc n the Middle East are inuing crisis in Bo sdner's Kudo said oe dollar had lost be raditional status as a en" in times of pot ability, but recem nomic strength sear O Said The U.S. economy the government kt.

le as well certainly Japan's. This is ret. haven, he added S. Treasury Sect. ert Rubin's come rsday that a strong t the hest interests of recalled similar s ts made by Japanes. to the 90 yen level k. increasing me eptions that both ; are sincere in main a strong dollar, de

echnical factors also! the dollar's gams. resdner's Kudo e combination of all gs has been very goor dollar. And I am in the way of at k rise to 95.00 yes. 30 marks HOROSCOPE

CECAST FOR SAI Y, AUGUST 11. 8 Thomas S. Per. rologer, Carroll Rg Foundation

ES: (March 21 to b You can be very on y so make your p ly, and follow the them. Listen to their our mate. JRUS: (April 20 m)

Think of home and it y, and make your a avenly and restful # some entertaining mate for some F MINI: (May 21 to b

You know the right: ain more cooperation from regular allis. eby become mon! ul. Get your destre iled. ON CHILDREN: (Ir

July 21) Concents ing the most wise fible today so that coosiderably to F s. Take it easy. : (July 22 to Augus are dynamic rode ld cootact those per whom you de urs, and you can ! them with a smit. GO: (August 2 ember 22) Study all amibioons todays are too overwhe details and could

of what is truly in

RA: (September F ber 22) Get into s rs which truly ion today, and the eve pe a memorable on sure of yourself RPIO: (October 1 ember 21) You mplish much in the husiness world today n early start. Shop handle civic mane ITTARIUS: (Nove December 21) You ink big and this is day for that because accomplish someth while in your life. RICORN: (Decemb nuary 20) You man with spec

you could form ARIUS: (Januari tary 19) Early rods) hat your associate of you, and the and try to please ou to succeed. ent to succeed.

ES: (Fehruary

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a August

usiness

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Cement company authorised to issue JD 15 million debentures

* * THE GENERAL assembly of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) approved at an extraordinary session held Thursday recommendations put by the board of directors to issue JD 15 million of debentures to finance produc-tion modernisation and environmental projects. At the ordinary general assembly meeting held afterwards. shareholders approved the distribution of JD 8.46 million, or 14 per cent, in dividends. The company generated a JD 10.4 million net profit last year after having registered JD 100.33 million in net sales, JCFC marked 1994 as the year with the highest production having processed 3.1 million tonnes of clinker with JD 67.37 million in iodustrial costs. Exports totalled 887,023 tonoes. nearly 140,000 tonnes higher than the 1993 figures (Al

** THE HEAD of the truckowners' association accuses transport offices of cuses transport offices of violating rules governing new charges issued by the Ministry of Transport, especially for carrying goods to foreign destinations. He charges these offices of lowering or fincreasing the tarrifs according to their own interests and points our that a load to points out that a load to li Baghdad carries a JD 19 per tonne tariff hut transport offices pay only JD 10 per tonne and unrightfully keep JD 9 per tonne as profit. The association chief says lack of strict control and supervision is giving the transport offices the opportunity to load non-Jordanian trucks whenever a large number of them are present. The ministry said it would tighten supervision on these offices and urged stict ahidance to the new tariffs

★★ MORE THAN 100 air cargo clearing and freight companies will soon begin their work from new offices near Queen Alia International Airport. The new 1,650 square metre building, which will house 68 clearing com-panies and 42 airfreight firms, was set up by the Civil Aviation Authority at cost of JD 218,000. The move will facilitate working conditions for the companies as they will be having 64 new offices of various sizes to operate from instead of the four offices now being used at the premises of the airfreight building. The volume of freight from the airport, which amounted to 720,070 tonnes of goods in addition to 1.14 million kilogrammes of mail, is expected to increase in the near future.

₩# THE AUDIT Bureau saved the treasury JD 2.4 million during the first five months of this year. According to the May performance report, the hureau audited 17,650 records, conducted 510 "unannounced tests" and participated in 4,806 different committees. The Audit Bureau issued 56 clarification requests during May 1995 about financial irregularities at various government departments. There were 1,719 clarification requests still outstanding. Meanwhile, the Directorate of Planoing and Central Control of the Aodit Bureau is conducting a performance evaluation of same institutions such as the Telecommunications Corporanon, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation. the Postal Savings Fund and the General Statistics Department. The reports on these institutions are expected to come out in a few

months (Al Ra'i).

U.S. cigarette makers fuming over Clinton curbs

Furning U.S. tobacco firms went to court Thursday to block a government crackdown on cigarette sales to minors, and served notice to President Bill Clinton that he was running serious political

The advertising industry also threatened legal action if necessary to protect what it' called its constitutional right to promote tobacco products without restrictions from

Washington.
They were responding to Mr. Clinton's announcement Thursday that nicotine was an addictive drug and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would take a series of steps to keep young people from getting hooked.

The measures would forbid the call and suppose the steps to the step to the steps to the steps to the step to

the sale of cigarenes to anyone who cannot prove they are at least 18, ban vending machines accessible to young people, and severely curb marketing campaigns aimed at the youth market.

The five major U.S. manufacturers quickly filed suit in a federal coun in the southern tobacco state of Nonh Carolina, seeking to block the FDA action.

The FDA's attempt to exert jurisdiction over

cedented and unlawful effort to extend its regulatory reach far beyond its statutory mandate," said Charles Blixt, senior vice president of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco.

The tobacco industry says the FDA would need a mandate from Congress before it. could get into such areas, and so far legislators have shown no inclination to confer such authority on the regulatory

body. Cigarette manufacturers also complained that the Clinton campaign against teen smoking ignored their own voluntary efforts to keep their product out of the hands of minors. They predicted a long coun fight.

Political analysts said Mr. Clinton's decision to take on the tohacco industry could have serious electoral consequences coming barely 15 months hefore the Democrat will be secking a second term in the White House.

Steve Parrish, a senior vice president of the Philip Morris iobacco company, suggested Mr. Clinton was taking a chance hy ignoring the mes-sage of the Republican land-slide in last November's congressional elections.

GTE to join Disney, **Baby Bell venture**

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. telecommunications giant GTE said Thursday it had agreed to join Walt Disney Co. and three regional telephone companies in a \$500 million entertainment venture providing video prog-ramming and interactive ser-

In a statement, GTE Corp said it will join Ameritech Corp, Bellsouth Corp and Southwestern Bell, a unit of SBC Communications INC, as an equal partners in the veoture.

Disney and the three re-giooal "Bahy Bell" companies originally announced the creation of the home enfertainment venture in April . The Los Angeles-hased

venture, to be funded collectively by the partners with \$500 million over a five-year period, will initially provide entertainment and interactive programming for distribution by the communication part-

While Disney is developing the core programming, the telephone companies are upgrading their networks to carry video and interactive signals to homes and husinesses.

Financial

GTE's involvement increases the combined reach of the venture to 68 million access lines in 33 states from 50 million access lines previously, adding lucrative markets St. Peterburg, Florida, Dallas and other sunbelt cities, It also gives the venture a presence in the northwest, southwest and southeast.

"This is an important step forward for the venture," said Disney Chairman Michael Eisner. "GTE will help introduce the venture's programming into new growth areas of the country. This means more people in more places will the menter-tained and informed by the venture programming."

The entertainment giant has not discussed financial terms or sai investment will be divided equally among the partners. The venture will develop, acquire, package and market entertainment, educational and interactive programming on a nationwide hasis. It will also develop services such as video-on-demand, home shopping and networked

Markets C		
Сителез	Bld	Offe
U.S. Dollar	0,702	0,704 .
Sterling Pound	1,1204	1.1264
Doutsche Mark	0,4968	0.4993
iolas Franc	0,5492	0,6022
reach franc	0,1440	0.1447
apanese Yan"	0,7666	0,7704
Datch Calider	. 0,4454	0,4456
wedleb Kross		
irlian Lira*	0.0445	0.0445

Jordan Thees

Other Carrencies	P	. Date: 2/2/9S		
Currency	Bld	Offe		
Heleratel Dissar	1_4430	1,4560		
Lobentoic Lira*	0,0423	0,0432		
Soudi Riyal	0,7869	0,7882		
Kovelii Dinte	2,2958/	2,5550		
Ostari Riyal	. 0,1914	0,1924		
gyptian Pound	0,1900	0,2760		
Corent Riyal	1,8120	1,4310		
IAE Dirhom	0.1903	0,1911		
Greek Strachma"	0,2410	0,3210		
ypriet Poued	1,5250	1,5900		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

Canadian dollar One U.S. dollar 1.3580/90 1.4302/12 Deutschemarks 1,6016/26 Dutch guilders 1.1868/78 Swiss francs Belgian francs 29.37/41 4.9218/68 French francs 1588,2/9.2 Italian lire 93.67/77 Japanese yen 7.1130/30 Swedish crowns 6.2760/10 Norwegian crowns 5.5350/00 Danish crowns

1.5844/54

One ounce of gold \$383.80/384.30

One Sterling

U.S. dollar

sent a very clear message last vear. As citizens we want less government intrusion in our daily lives," Mr. Parrish said.
"We want politicians to stan

using some common sense." Industry officials see the attack on underage smoking as an attempt to establish a beachhead to han cigarettes completely.

Make no mistake, the real hidden agenda here is prohibition," Mr. Parrish said in reference to the 1919-1933 han on liquor in the United States which gave rise to a generation of bootleggers.

Mr. Clinton was running afoul of an industry that bas been hallowed part of the United States since the Republic's founding, and which registered more than \$47 million in U.S. sales last year.

Despite an active antismoking lobby, up to 50 mil-lion Americans, one fifth of the country's population, still

Politicians from tobacco producing states have reacted bitterly to the government's move against cigarettes, with members of the president's own party among the most

"l'm very disappointed with the president's decision. It's the wrong way to go," said North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt, a Democrat. Senator Wendell Ford of Kentucky moaned: "My farmers lost out to the zealots."

The White House's internal polls reportedly showed widespread support for action against underage smoking. But political analysts wondered whether Mr. Clinton should write off the South in the November 1996 elec-

Mr. Clinton won only three of the six largest tohacco states in his first run for the presidency in 1992. One of them. Georgia, he took hy a scant 5,000 votes. The industry directly or indirectly provides employ-

ment for more than 680,000 people, according to the Tohacco Institute. And at least one group — advertisers — was also gearing for hattle with 'MY." Clinton. The Association of Nation-

al Advertisers Inc., which says it represents 5,300 firms, called the measures announced Thursday "a crushing censorsbip regime" and said it would file suit if necessary to protect its rights to free speech.

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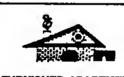


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For Olajuwer

ATLANTA (AFP) — Dan Kowalski edged world distance record king Kieren Perkins for gold and added a silver Thursday to lead Australia's greatest one-day medal haul ever at the Pan Pacific Swim Championships. Australia captured nine

medals, three gold and five silver, on the opening day of the biannual meet. Japan's women were also impressive with two triumphs and five medals overall. Kowalski won the 800-

metre freestyle in 7:50.28, out-touching Perkins by 52bundredths of a second to deny his countryman's bid for a third straight PanPac sweep of the three longest races, in which be owns world records.

"I was surprised. I didn't think I would swim that quick," Kowalski said. "It was a total shock. It was my best time by four seconds." Kowalski was out of the

water from last September until April with a sore shoulder, a broken foot and mjuries in a car accident. But he stayed with Perkins on every stroke until the

with 50m to go I would win," Kowalski said. "I had been staying with him through the first 400 and I was moving faster. It was a

Barely 30 minutes later, Kowalski was second to New Zealand's Danyon Loader in the 200 freestyle, banging on for silver over the final length of the new \$17 million pool where 1996 Olympic races will be con-

"After doing so much in the first 150 when I was burting, there was no way I was going to let it all slip away in the last 50," be

The only blemish on Australia's success came in the

women's 1,500m freestyle showdown, where reigning champion Hayley Lewis was edged by Brooke Bennett, the 15-year-old who swept Janet Evans in distance races at the U.S. finals last week.

"I was surprised but I knew I was swimming well and could do it if I kept my concentration," Bennett said. "I won three gold medals at the U.S. championships. Maybe I'll come away with three golds

Lewis has her chance for revenge this weekend in the 400m and 800m freestyles. Australians Susan O'Neill and Scott Miller set PanPac records in swimming 200m butterfly titles. O'Neill, 200m butterfly bronze medalist at the 1992 Olympics and 1994 world meet, won in 2:07.29, four-bundredths of a second below the decade-old mark set Meagher in Japan.
"It was just great knowing the team is doing really well and baving your best times," O'Neill said. "I was pretty happy. I could tell I was on a good pace."

Miller lowered the Pan-Pac record by six-hundredths of a second to 1:57.86, eclipsing the mark set by U.S. veteran Melvin Stewart in 1991. Another Australian, Scott Goodman, took second in 1:58.65 after fighting off an illness last month. Both times were personal bests.

I'm really happy," Miller said. "I was a little bit nervous and I was hurting this morning. Plus I knew Scott would be fast."

tion's best in the 200m freestyle, edging trans-Tasman rival Kowalski to win in 1:48.72.

"I was good considering I was a half a length behind

fifth at 1:20.134. But trying to

better his time, he spun out on a curve, bounced through

the gravel and slammed into

a soft barrier of piled tires. His car was badly damaged, but Alesi walked away. The Hungaroring track is

one of the shorter on the

Grand Prix circuit, and its

narrow and short straights

mean it is hard to pass, put-ting a premium on the pole and high positions in the

The drivers all have another chance Saturday to

improve their positions in the

field in the second session of

at the start," Loader said. "I just wanted to go fast for as long as I could."

Japanese women made an impressive showing, with Suzu Chiba winning the 200m freestyle in 2:00.00 and Noriko Inada taking the 100 backstroke in a Japan-record 1:02.02. Japan's women also bad a silver and a bronze.

"The past prizes Japan has won is really encouraging us to make a greater effort and go even farther and swim faster," said Chi-ba, who was sixth in her event at the 1992 Olympics.

World record holder Jeff Rouse won an unprecedented fourth straight PanPac 100m backstroke crown in 54.99 seconds.

Rodolfo Falcon set a Cuban record of 55.48 in qualified in the final for staying too long underwa-



by U.S. swimmer Mary T.

BUDAPEST (AP) —

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Germany. Saturdays from 6:00 pm.

posted the fastest time Friday to take the provisional pole

His Williams Renault teammate, David Coulthard,

was second, giving fans of the two British drivers heart as both need to perform well to stay with Williams. Hill, who spun out two weeks ago barely one lap into the German Grand Prix, bad a fastest lap of one minute, 18.374 seconds on the 3.968-

kilometre Hungaroring Circuit in the rolling Hills out-

side the Hungarian capital. -Hill, second in the drivers' standings this year, was .626 second faster than coulthard. World champion Michael Schumacher of Germany,

who got married last week and is said to be close to signing with Ferrari for next year, managed only fourth-best, with 1:19.490, third was Gerhard Berger of Austria. Berger's Ferrari temmate.

While race preparations went ahead, the motor racing press devoted itself to a carousel of likely driver changes for next year's

Agnelli confirmed on Thurs-

day that Schumacher, who bolds a commanding lead of 21 points over Hill in this year's drivers' standings, has signed with the Ferrari team, which is part of Fiat's empire. And Indycar star Jacques Villeneuve, who won the last

Indianapolis 500, was ready to move over to Formula One, probably with Williams-Renault, which had him over for testing last week and liked his driving. If that move by Villeneuve takes place, Williams drivers Hill and Coulthard would be one too many for the team.

Villeneuve, 24, a Canadian, would add a measure of legend to the Formula One enticed to join Ferrari instead of Williams. Villeneuve's father, Gilles, was a star Fer-rari Driver before he was Fiat tycoon Giovanni killed in pratice for the 1982 Belgian Grand Prix.

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sion. Even it were to succeed, you would have only eight tricks and would need a successful heart finesse for the ninth. Therefore, it is

The problem is you might seed to take three finesses to bring in four heart tricks, and you have only two entries to dummy. You have to manufacture a third and the optimum chance is to hope West's lead was from J 10 rather than shortness.

Win the ace of spades at trick one and jettison your king of spades under it. Now take the heart finesse. When their wins, cash the see and king of clubs to see whether the queen drops, in which case another heart finesse will deliver the contract. Where the label dearn't arrest. heart finesse will deliver the con-tract. When the lady doesn't appear, congratulate yourself for your fore-sight at trick one and lead a spade to the nine. That holds and you can take two more heart finesse, which you need as the cards lie, to rake in nine hard-earned tricks.

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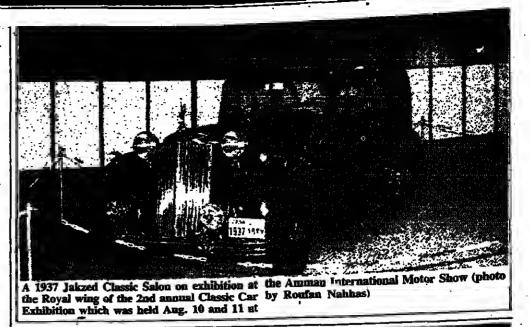
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Sanchez, Sabatini reach quarters

MANHATTAN BEACH seed from Slovakia, negated there were four consecutive round bye and second-round default, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario finally got a chance to work up a sweat Thursday at the \$430,000 Acura Classic

women's tennis tournament. She made the most of ber first match, defeating No. 16 Sabine Appelmans, 6-0, 3-6, 6-2 in the third round. It took Sanchez Vicario 1 hour, 47 minutes to get the win.
Top-seeded Sanchez Vicar-

io took command early on. needing just 26 minutes to breeze through the first set.
"I was definitely eager to

play, Sanchez Vicario said. "I wanted to start competition. This is the first time I've ever had to wait so long." Appelmans turned the tables in the second set.

breaking Sanchez Vicario in the sixth game to take a 4-2 lead. She held serve and won the second set, 6-3, the first set Sanchez Vicario had ever lost to Applemans. "I started really good, but

she came back with some good shots and gave me trouble in the second set," Sanchez Vicario said.

But she got back on track in the third set, breaking Applemans in the fourth game. She broke Applemans again in the sixth game to take a 5-1 lead. Appelmans won another

game before falling, 6-2. "I started playing my game, and playing this way has given me a lot of confi-dence," Sanchez Vicario

Gabriela Sabatini needed only 56 minutes to dispose of Karina Habsudova 6-1, 6-2.

The third-seeded Sabatini was in total control throughout, winning 71 per cent of her first serves and 75 per cent of Habsudova's second-

with numerous unforced errors and three doublefaults. Sabatini meets 10th-sceded

Chanda Rubin in the quarterfinals. Rubin advanced with a 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 6-1 victory over Nathalie Baudone of Italy in a 2-hour, 19-minute match. In other third-round action

Thursday, No. 14 Lindsay Davenport eliminated No. 12 Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 7-5, 6-3, No. 5 Anke Huber of Germany beat Rita Grande of Italy 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; No. 6 Natasha Zvereva of Belarus topped Asa Carlsson of Sweden 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, and Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia upset No. 9 Nathalie Tauziat of France 7-6 (7-5). 6-3.

In other quarterfinal matches, Sanchez Vicario faces Zvereva, No. 2 Conchita Martinez of Spain meets Huber and Davenport faces Basuki. Martinez advanced to the quarterfinals Wednesday night, beating No. 15 Julie Halard of France 6-7 (6-8), 6-0, 6-3.

The semifinals will be played Saturday and the final on Sunday at the Manhattan Country Club. Sabatini said she played

much better Thursday than she did in her second-round match, a three-set victory over Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands.

'I expected a little tougher match today," Sabatini said, "I hadn't played her before,

but I've seen her play. She has very solid ground strokes. My game seemed to bother her a lot. "I think I controlled the

match. My strategy was very good. I was mixing up the shots and I caused her to make a lot of errors.'

In the first set of the Davenport-Coetzer match,

rst- any chance sbe may have had service breaks, and in the with numerous unforced second set, five straight, with Davenport coming out on top

> Davenport won the last three games of the first set and the final two of the

"I always felt I should break her, and when I would get a break, I kind of relaxed a bit," Davenport said. "I went for the big forehand and it seemd to be working.

'It was sure hot out there. She lets you attack and she played really well, but I think she got tired."

Agassi, Chang advance -

In Mason, Ohio, world number one Andre Agassi and two-time defending champion Michael Chang survived spirited challenges, but Boris Becker was one of four seeds to fall in secondround play at the ATP cham-pionships.

The fourth-ranked Becker, making his first appearance since reaching the Wimbledon final, fell short in a tight struggle with Dutch left-hander Jan Siemerink 7-5.

"Unfortunately now, I'll be practicing a lot the next few days instead of playing a couple more matches," Beck-

Top seed Agassi struggled through a tough opening set before roaring through the second in overcoming Czech. Daniel Vacek 7-6 (7-5), 6-1, while fourth seed Chang was extended by 157th-ranked fellow American Alex O'Brien, prevailing 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 to reach the third round.

Joining Becker on the side-

lines was fifth-seeded Russian star Yevgeny Kafelni-kov, who fell 6-4, 7-5, to Bernd Karbacher of Ger-



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AUGUST 12, 198

Faisali win Cup Winner's Cup

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Faisali Friday scoted a convincing 4-1 win over reigning Premier League champions Al Wihdat to elinch their record 9th Cup Winner's Cup - one of the country's four

major soccer ritles. Al Faisali's win added another record to the team's long line of achievements as they have also won the Jordan Cup nine times and the Premier League 25 times.

Friday's match at Al Hussein Youth City was attended by Their Ruyal Highnesses Prince Abdal-lah Ben Al Hussein and Princess Rania.

Al Faisali won the first half 3-0 on goals from Mousa Awad, Rateh Al Awadat and Firas Khalaileh as the team displayed coherent leaniwork and totally dominated the first

Al Wihdat's Khaled Majdaławi scored his team's face-saving goal at the be-ginning of the second half. Al Faisali's Ja'far Hammad sealed his team's win with the fourth goal in the final minutes of the match attended by over 14,000

Al Faisali had faced Al Wihdat for the Cup Winner's Cup four times winning the otle in three of their clashes: 6-4 on penalties in 1981, 1-0 in 1986 and 2-1 in 1993. Al Wihdat beat Al Faisali 5-4 on penalties in win the title in 1989.

The JSF had considered the postponement of the match on a request by Al Wihdat who have four players on the Olympic team which recently concluded a tournament in Taiwan. The players ate Abdallah Ahu Zame'h, Sufyan Ahdallah, Faisal Ahmad, and Munir Ahu Hantash.

However, the team arrived in Amman Thursday and players, although tired, were here in time for the

Al Faisali and Al Wihdat have secured at least one title this season. Al Windat beat Al Jatil to win the JSF Shield while Al Faisali overcame Al Ramtha to win their record 9th Jordan

	Cup Winner's Cup record
	(Runner up in brackets)
1981	Faisali (Wihdat)
1982	Faisali (Ramtha)
1983	
1984	Faisall (Ramtha)
	Juzireh (Amman)
1986	Faisali (Wibdat)
	Faisali (Arabi)
	No match was held
	Windat (Faisali)
1990	
	Faisail (Ramtha)
	Faisali (Wibdat)
	Faisaii (Ramtha)
	Faisali (Wihda

Olajuwon happy with U.S. Jersey

SECAUCUS, New Jersey (AP) - After putting on his U.S. Olympic Jersey for the first time, Hakeem Olajuwon hardly cared that it was a bit light. After what he went through to get it, the fit wasn't important.
"It's beautiful," he said

when he modelled the red, white and hine No. 15 jersey for the first time.

For Olajuwon, being one of the first players named on the 12-man 1996 Olympic team marked the end of one mission and the start of another - winning a gold

Ever since pros were first allowed to participate in Olympie haskethall competition in 1992, the Nigerianborn Houston Rockets centre dreamed of playing for his adopted country. He watched, with longing, the original Dream Team win gold in

But even though he be-U.S. citizen in 1993. international hasketball rules prohibited him from playing for the United States because he had represented his native Nigeria in an international tournament when he was a

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tired."

teenager. By the time a team was chosen to represent the United States in the 1994 World Championships, Olajuwon had largely given up any thought of ever being able to play for America.

"It wasn't a dream any-more for me," he said. "I decided to concentrate on Other areas.

But on a trip through Bos-ton in late 1994, he contacted Alan Dershowitz, The Harvard Law professor and attorney whose celebrity clients have included Mike Tyson and American footballer O.J. Simpson. Over dinner, Dershowitz said he thought Olajuwon could get permission to play from FIBA and

offered to help. "I just think Hakeem Olajuwon is the best role model m the NBA today for young people," Dershowitz said. "It would have been really a tragedy if he wasn't allowed to play in the Olympics."

FIBA was willing to listen to Olajuwon. When USA Basketball made its selections for the team in June, his waiver from FIBA was all hut assured of going through and he was invited to join the team tight around the time he was leading Houston to its second consecutive NBA ti-

"I thought it was too good to be true," he said.

It wasn't. A few weeks later, FIBA secretary Borislav Stankovic granted Olajuwon an exception to the rules. He was free to play with Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal, San Antonio's David Rohinson, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Chicago's Scottie Pippen and the rest of "Dream Team III"

"This is the highest level of competition in the United States," he said. "To be selected as one of the players, (one of) only 12 to represent the U.S., it's a big honour.'

It also will mean big fun for Olajuwon, who relishes the opportunity to play alongside O'Neal and Robinston, the other two Dream Team III centres. To allow Coach Lenny Wilkens to have more than one of them on the floor at a time, Olajuwon said

forward on occasion. "It gives a lot of room to be creative," he said. "You're playing against your toughest competition in practice. The competition will be in practice. In the game, we'll be a

African struggle for Olympic places continues

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - The contest to determine which three countries will represent Africa at the 1996 Olympic Games soeeer tournament in the United States resumes this weekend

Nigeria, favourites not only to reach the 16-nation finals, hut prohable challengers for the gold medals, host Egypt, whose 10 Olympic appearances is a record for

The Egyptians first played at the finals 75 years' ago in, the Belgian city of Antwerp. losing 2-1 to Italy in the first round, and were also in ac-tion at the 1992 Barcelona

Nigeria ean eall on European-hased professionals like Augustine Okocha from German cluh Eintracht Frankfurt and Nwankwo Kanu, who collected a European Cup winners' medal this year with Dutch masters

Without their Foreign Legion, Nigeria struggled at home to modest Kenya in the opening round, drawing 0-0, but an Okocha-inspired team made no mistake in the return match, winning 3-0.

Egypt were less impressive, scoring a couple of onegoal victories over little Maurinus, and it would be a surprise if Nigeria fail to huild a winning lead with home advantage.

Traditional southern Africa rivals Zimhabwe and Zamhia will not lack confidence ahead of their showdown following convincing first-round triumphs over Malawi and Botswana respectively.

Alois Bunjira and Elasto Lungu, a son of former national defender Ephraim,

scored twice each for Zimbabwe while Zamhian Dennis Lota finished with a

similar goal tally. Ghana, idle in the opening phase when cash-strapped Congo withdrew, entertain Angola, who boast one of the most exciting young African players in Fabrice 'Akwa' Mateus.

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World Athletics championships

U.S.wake up with Torrence hangover

GOTHENBURG (AFP) -The U.S. team were determined to get on with the World Championships here on Friday, hut remained hit-ter over Gwen Torrence's disqualification and the

accusations of cheating.

Torrence hit the line a clear winner here on Thursday night and completed her victory lap to thunderous applause before a jury disqualifed the American for stepping out of her lane.

But what's been just as hard to swallow for the American squad were gold medallist Merlene Ottey's allegations that Torrence had cheated, and that the U.S. had used its influence to deny Ottey the 100m gold at the 1993 World Championships. Mcanwhile two-time

Olympic champion Roger Kingdom was fastest first round qualifier in the II0 metres hurdles Friday as he chased his first world title.

Then he described how the disqualification of Torrence would spark the United States team into even greater efforts in the final three days of the World Championships.

"It's a sad situation and I wish it hadn't happened to her," Kingdom said. "It was almost the race of her life.

"But this will motivate the American runners. We'll band together and support her. We've still got one of the best forces in the world in track and field and, when you take one of best out, teams pull together."

In other developments Friday, defending titlist Ioamnet Quintero of Cuba and the 1991 champion Heike Henkel of Germany both were eliminated in the first round of the women's high jump and the championship record in the men javelin was hroken twice in the qualifying round, first hy Germany's Boris Henry then hy world record holder Jan Zelezny of the

Czech Republic. Henkel managed 1.93 metres and placed 16th overall while Quintero's best was 1.90 and she was 20th. Twelve made it to Sunday's final, including American jumper Amy Acuff who

Henry threw 87.60 metres in the javelin to beat the meet record of 85.98, set hy defending champion Zelezny at the last championships in Stuttgart. Zelezny, whose world record is 95.66, responded with a throw of

Kingdom, who turns 33 in two weeks and almost hack to his best after recovering from two knee operations, clocked 13.35 to win his heat after four false starts had made him unusually nervous.

"It's aggravating. You get antsy in the hlocks and your arms are shaking," he said of the five-minute delay caused

by the false starts. "I'm also suffering from endinitis behind my right mee," said Kingdom after

NEWLY FURNISHED his first race since July 10 in APARTMENT FOR RENT

"But you can't think about that. These are the World

Championships. Another American medal contender, Allen Johnson, moved into the second round later Friday by winning his heat in 13.44.

In the absence of defending champion and world re-cord holder Colin Jackson, who is injured, Britain's hopes rest on 1993 silver medallist Tony Jarrett, who won his beat in 13.57.

Torrence's disqualification Thursday was just one incident in a seemingly crazy hour at the World Championships. Inessa Kravets, an Ukrainian, hroke the triple world record by a massive 41 centimetres, a Syrian heptathlete won her country's first gold medal and Chinese walker Zhao Yongsheng, well ahead in the 50kilometre race, collapsed of dehydration in the street and was taken to hospital.

Friday's schedule also promised something spectacular. Michael Johnson, already proud owner of the 400-metre title, planned to add the 200 to his collection and become the first man to win both at one major international championships.

There also was the women's 400 hurdles, the men's discus and the prospect of a Kenyan 1-2-3 in the

Torrence didn't consider she lost. "I'm not going to let this ruin my 100m gold, I was clearly the victor," said the American, who also beat

Ottey and Irina Privalova in the 100. Ottey smiled as she col-lected the gold medal from

Prince Albert of Monaco.
"I don't care," said the
35-year-old Jamaican, who stretched her record medals total to 12 - three gold, three silver, six hronze."
Mine is the gold medal.
"I saw on TV that she ran

out of her lane. That was

"She ran about two metres shorter than anybody. She ran in somebody's lane which she shouldn't do. It's like having two false starts. "I don't know if she did it

purposely. Sometimes when you run as short as possible you run too close. I heard she did it in the semifinal, too." Ottey, who lost the 100metre title to another American runner, Gail Devers, af-

ter a photo-finish at Stuttgart two years ago, had more anxious moments to wait until she knew she had her second 200-metre championship in a "Stuttgart was unfair to

me," said Ottey, now the winner of three golds, three silvers and six bronze medals at the championships. "I thought I won — even after the photo finish."



Syria's Ghada Shoua'a prays as she holds her country's flag after she won the women's pionships (AFP photo)

Syria's Ghada Shoua'a wins heptathlon gold

GOTHENBURG (R) -What will Syrian President Hafez Al Assad huy Ghada Shoua'a now?

That is the question people may be asking after heptathlete Shoua'a won Syria's first ever gold medal at the World Athletics Championships on Thursday. After the 21-year-old won

the Asian Games last year Al-Assad presented Shoua'a with a villa and a car. There is no need for a car

this time since Shoua'a won a Mercedes for winning the gold, the first medal for a Middle East country at a World Championships.

According to Syrian athle-tics official Mowafak Jomaa, the first thing the country will organise is a cavalcade from Damascus to her home village of Maharda 120 kilometres away. Like 1984 Olympic 400

metres hurdles champion Nawal El Moutawakil, the first Arah woman to win a major title, Shoua'a will become a hero for Arah youngsters after her Gothenhurg victory.

"It will encourage Arah girls to take up sport," said Shoua's who won the competition with 6,651 points, 76 points ahead of Russian Svetlana Moskalets.

Jomaa added: "I hope this will give athletics a big push and make it more popular than football in Syria." Shoua'a paid tribute to her

guiding her for the last 12 months. "He has been worth 500 points to me," she said. Bukhantsev, former coach to 1972 Olympic discus champion Faina Melnik, is Shoua'a's second Russian coach under an exchange

agreement hetween the National Olympic committees of Russia and Syria. He specialises in the throwing events and it was appropriate that Shoua'a should dramatically overturn Moskalets's 220-point lead in

the javelin, the sixth event.

metres in the final round,

compared with the Russian's

With a decisive 54.92

into a 48-point lead ahead of the final event, the 800 Moskalets needed to beat Shoua'a hy three seconds to capture the gold and with 250

swept into the lead. But Shoua'a tracked her into the home straight before Russian coach, Kim unleashing a kick to win the Bukhantsev, who has been race in two minutes 14.33

metres remaining the Russian

Four years ago Shoua'a was unknown in world terms. At the 1991 World Championships she came 24th and was 25th in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

In 1993 she took the Asian Games title and then repeated her victory last year. She also finished third behind her idol, American Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-Kersee, in the 1994 Goodwill

Shoua'a's first sport was basketball and the 1.78-metre tall athlete has represented her national team.

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Mr. Clinton made the

announcement in the wake of

the 50th anniversary of the

bombings of Hiroshima and

January to make a test ban

treaty a priority and that be

support for an accord.

would work to get global

The Wasbington Post re-

ported that a panel of scien-

tists advised the administra-

tion last week that the small

hydronuclear tests were not needed and that larger explo-

sions would not be necessary

if other steps were taken to ensure the viability of the

The administration has

been torn over the issue of

curbing nuclear testing, but

officials told the Post that

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chair-

man John Shalikashvili and

Defence Secretary William

Perry had signed on to the

U.S. arsenal.

The president pledged in

ger be certified."

WASHINGTON (Agencies) - President Bill Clinton announced support Friday for complete nuclear test ban, pledging to "build a safe world" half a century after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Mr. Clinton said the United States backed "a true zero yield" test ban, dropping its previous insistence that it could conduct small laboratory nuclear weapons experiments.

tr

O

The United States will now insist on a test ban that prohibits any nuclear weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosion,' Mr. Clinton told reporters at the White House.

A comprehensive test ban is the right step as we continue pulling back from the nuclear precipice," he said. "It moves us one step closer to the day when no nuclear weapons are detonated anywhere on the face of the

Mr. Clinton said he hoped tbe announcement would speed negotiations for a test ban accord in Geneva and allow conclusion of the talks next year. France called for a similar comprehensive treaty on Thursday.

"This is an historic milestone in our efforts to reduce the nuclear threat, to build a safer world," the U.S. president said.

LONDON (AFP) — Prime

Minister Tomiichi Murayama

has apologised for "suffer-

ing" caused by Japan during World War II, including that

to British prisoners of war

(PoWs), Downing Street said

The letter marked the first

formal apology hy Tokyo to

Britain since the end of

World War II, and follows

protests by thousands of for-

meer PoWs who have deman-

Japanese government.

of the letter.

ded compensation from the

of the contents of the letter.

A spokesman said the com-

ments were prefaced by the

pbrase "with regard to the

questions of the past." But

Mr. Murayama also referred

specifically to a previous ver-

bal apology for acts "includ-

ing (on) prisoners of war.
"I reiterate this senti-

ment," he wrote, the spokes-

But Mr. Clinton maintained that he would seek to

president's endorsement. France's ambassador to the Geneva Disarmament Conference, Gerard Errera, said Thursday the comprehensive test ban treaty being negoti-

'suffering' caused in war

ated should "probibit any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear

Spurgeon Keeny, president of the private arms control

mistreatment in the war has

caused repeated con-

ministers resigned from their

Two Japanese cabinet

troversies in the region.

Japan apologises to U.K. for Cyprus murder trial is

posts in May and August last year after their remarks denying Japan's wartime aggression sparked protests particularly from China and

of Chinese in Nanjing by Japanese soldiers in 1937 was a "fabrication." Veterans, who last month

sued Japan for their wartime suffering, said the fact that the letter was private showed how far Japan had yet to go.

Downing Street said it would not disclose any more since it was a confidential correspondence, but said Mr. Major had written to exprisoner of war and internee organisations to inform them East Prisoners of War.

> government as a whole," he Corporation. "The Japanese are always changing their prime ministers, so it's quite hollow."

was filed in Tokyo on behalf of 73,000 members of veterans' organisations from Britain, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. The former prisoners are demanding the equivalent of \$22,000 each.

as slave labour, and were

The letter came a week before Victory in Japan (VJ) day next Saturday marking the end of the war in Japan. Previously Tokyo has apologised to British authorities Allied prisoners suffered

The issue of Japanese recognition of responsibility for

A spokesman said Mr. Murayama had sent a letter to Prime Minister John Ma-South Korea. A state minister for enjor expressing "profound remorse for Japan's actions in a vironmental affairs was accertain period of the past cused of saying Japan had not summer recess. which caused such unbearwaged a war of aggression. and a justice minister resable suffering and sorrow for so many people.'

igned for saying the massacre

"It is a written apology and private letter to Prime Minister Major expressing the Japanese prime minister's personal views," said Harold Payne, who heads the National Federation of Far

"What we would want is an apology from the Japanese told the British Broadcasting

The former PoWs' lawsuit

Sudan to send delegations to explain stand on crisis

KHARTOUM (AFP) -Sudan will send parliamentary delegations to six Arab countries to describe Egyptian "aggressions" in a disputed border region and ask for Arab mediation between the two countries, a newspaper said Friday.

The missions will leave in the coming days with messages for the parliamentary speakers in Libya, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen and Morocco concerning Sudan's position on the Halaib border area, the daily Al Ingaz Al Watani said.

The messages deal with Egyptian aggressions in Halaib, the beating of Sudanese diplomats in Cairo and the confiscation of Sudanese nationals' properties in Egypt." the paper

The missions will point out Sudan's desire for "dialogue or international mediation" with Egypt and urge the parliaments to take "an effective rule in patching up Arah

Parliamentary delegations will also head next week to Sudan's provinces to discuss implementing a federal government system, paper said. Egyptian security forces arrested 23 Sudanese for illegally crossing the border into Egypt, police sources said Friday.

The 23 were picked up "in a sweep over the past few days on Egypt's southern border to stop Muslim ex-tremist elements from Sudan," the source said.

Nearly 100 Sudanese have been turned back at Cairo airport since July 8, when Egypt imposed for the first time entry and resident visa requirements on Sudanese citizens, the source added.

Cairo imposed the requirements when relations between the two countries went into crisis after Egypt accused Khartoum of backing the June 26 assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry announced that it received Khartoum's approval of its new ambassador to Sudan.

Hilmi Hamid Saleh Bedir will replace Hassan Gad Al Haq, whose term ends the end of August, the ministry

Despite the hostility between them, the two countries have maintained di-

ton decision, calling it "a

Mr. Keeny said Mr. Clinton overruled Pentagon efforts to convert the testing moratorium ordered by former President George Bush and continued by Mr. Clinton to one that would prohibitonly tests with an explosive force greater than one-half kilotonnes of TNT.

"This should provide the incentive to move the test ban negotiations forward,' Mr. Keeny said. "Otherwise, tbey would have been dead in the water.'

All other forms of U.S. nuclear testing — in the atmosphere and under water - were long since banned by treaty. Some 900 nuclear blasts have been conducted at the U.S. test site in Nevada since 1951.

On Thursday, Mr. Clinton said a recent statement by the French government that it would accept a zero threshold for a nuclear test-ban treaty. tantamount to banning all tests, would make negotiating a treaty much easier.

French President Jacques Chirac announced in June that France will stage a new series of seven or eight smallyield nuclear tests in Septem-ber at its Mururoa atoll range in the Pacific.

He said this week that the site will be closed down once the test series is completed.

adjourned

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — The three-week-old trial of three British soldiers accused of kidnapping and killing a Danish woman was adjourned Friday until Sept. 4 while the court goes into

Prosecution's star witness Michael Vassiliades, the Cypriot boyfriend of the slain woman, concluded four days of testimony, rejecting defence claims that his recollection of events on the night of was flawed.

He has tesufied that the three Britons were the men who attacked him and his girlfriend, Louise Jensen, 23. in the tourist resort of Ayia Napa on the night of Sept. 12-13. . ____

In the most dramatic moment of the trial, Mr. Vassiliades testified how the soldiers beat up Jensen, of Hirthals, Denmark, before bundling her into their car and driving off with her.

The soldiers are accused of manslaughter, kidnapping and conspiracy to rape the Danish tour guide. They have pleaded innocent to all charges.

The defendants are Alan Ford, 26, Justin Fowler, 26, and Jeff Parnell, 23.

All are serving with the Royal Green Jackets regiment at the British sovereign base of Dhekelia on the East Mediterranean island's south

Mr. Vassiliades told the court earlier that the soldiers ran bim off the road in their car as be and Jensen were riding home on his motorcycle. Jensen's leg was pinned beneath the motor after it

Under cross-examination Friday, he said that while he was trying to free her he asked if she was all right. "She laughed," he said. "She thought it was all a

joke. She laughed as if nothing was wrong.' But at that moment, he said, the defendants reversed

towards him in their car.

One got out with a shovel in his hand and chased him away, then all three started beating up Jensen on the ground before driving off with her, he testified.

Mr. Vassiliades alerted police, who arrested the soldiers at a roadblock 90 minutes later.

A police statement at the time said there were bloodstains on their clothes, the seats of the car and a shovel in the vehicle. Jensen's hattered body was

found in a shallow grave near Ayia Napa two days later.

Prosecution witnesses have stated that they had seen the soldiers drinking heavily on the night of the killing.

The police statement said tht all three confessed to killing Jensen.



BROTHERS-IN-LAW: File photo of Iraqi Minister of Industry Hussein Kamel Hassan (left), son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who was granted asylum in Jordan on Thursday (see story on page one). At right is Uday Hussein, son of President Saddam Hussein (AFP

Rival Kurds accept truce

DUBLIN (Agencies) — Two rival Iraqi Kurdish groups meeting at U.S.-sponsored peace talks in Ireland have agreed to a temporary ceasefire following a year of bloody clashes, an Iraqi opposition group said on Fri-

day.
The Kurdistan Democratic
Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) also made ground on two key issues to be discussed at further talks, the Iraqi National Congress (INC)

About 3,000 people have been killed in fighting hetween the militias in northern Iraq in the last year. Much of the feud has been related to control of the main Kurdish city of Erbil and revenues from a makeshift oil trade on the Iraqi-Turkish border.

"They have agreed to specific principles for the resolution of Erbil and the revenues," an INC told Reuters by telephone from the talks venue in Drogheda, about 25 kilometres north of

The two groups are to im-

NEWS IN BRIEF

NICOSIA (AFP) - A ferry boat detained by authorities at

the Cypriot port of Limassol disappeared in the morning mist on Friday, the official news agency NCA reported. The Carla, a Panamanian boat which ran the Limassol-

Beirut route, was ordered held at the southern port on

August because it had failed to pay bills owed to an oil

company, port sources said. The guards from a private

security company posted at the boat found it was gone

when a thick dawn fog over the region lifted, CNA said.

Authorities bave dispatched a cruiser and a helicopter to

find the runaway, perhaps between Egypt and Lebanon,

ATLANTA (R) — Former President Jimmy Carter suggested on Friday that the United States and China hold a

summit meeting if growing differences between the two countries go unresolved. "Strategically, problems with other countries fade into relative insignificance when

compared with the deterioration of relations between the

United States and China," Mr. Carter wrote in an opinion

article syndicated by the New York Times and published in

the Atlanta Constitution. "Each side needs to treat the

other with sensitivity and respect. Private negotiations -

not public ultimatums — are occessary to address the controversial issues," wrote Mr. Carter, who in 1978

conducted secret negotiations that led to full diplomatic

relations between the United States and China. "If

problems are not resolved, a long-overdue summit between the two heads of state should be scheduled," he said.

Turkey warns Greek-Cypriots against war

ANKARA (AFP) — The departing commander of Turkish forces stationed on Cyprus since 1974 warned Greek Cypriots on Friday against any "folly" leading to war on the divided island. "We want peace. We have never targetted others' territories," General Necati Ozgen said,

quoted by the Turkish Cypriot news agency TAK, received

in Ankara. "But if (Greek Cypriots) commit any sort of

folly, this time the objective will be (to take) Paphos" on

the far southwest corner of the island," Gen. Ozgen said.

Gen. Ozgen, who was promoted to commander of the

Turkish Third Army based in Erzincan (south Turkey),

made the comments in a speech to the Association of

Turkish Cypriot Combattants before ending his tour of

duty on the island. In late June, Turkish and Torkish-

Cypriot officials expressed concern about "the excessive

military buildup of the Greek Cypriot administration." Some officials said they feared Greek Cypriots were

planning a "nocturnal attack on the Turks" on the island.

Soames to take Yugo policy to Mideast

LONDON (AFP) — British Defence Secretary Nicholas Soames will visit three Middle Eastern countries next week

to clarify Britain's position on former Yugoslavia to the

Arah world. Mr. Soames will visit Jordan, Egypt and Saudi

Arahia as well as Morocco from Aug. 13-17 to explain in

particular the limitations of the U.N. peacekeeping force in war-wracked former Yugoslavia, the Defence Ministry said Friday. The Arab World has rallied bebind Bosnia's

Muslims with some threatening to unilaterally break a

U.N.-imposed arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovia and others pledging material and financial support for their

Carter suggests U.S.-China summit

Detained boat vanishes in Cypriot fog

again soon to discuss a plan to demilitarise Erhil and then deposit their revenues in

ary ceasefire that was broken

in July after three months, he

said.
"The chances of a more

detailed meeting or agree-ment are positive." KDP

Ankara spokesman Safeen

The Iraqi Kurds have been protected from Baghdad by a Western allied air force based

in soothern Turkey since the end of the 1991 Gulf war,

Washington, fearing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein

could use the Kurd feud to

regain influence in northern

Iraq, brokered the talks.
The two sides will meet

Dizayee said.

hank accounts to be monitored by a neutral commis-sion, the INC said. The KDP, led by Massoud

Barzani, has insisted at previous mediation talks that its rival give up control of Erhil. the seat of a regional parliament which has been paralysed by the fighting for the last eight months.
Jalal Talahani's PUK has

accused Mr. Barzani's group

lorry drivers at the border. The drivers bring food and other supplies into northern Iraq and take back small

amounts of Iraqi oil.

Turkey, which wants to keep its southeastern border secure from attacks by Kur-disb rebels, expressed satisfaction over the accord.

"This is a positive step towards peace and stability," said Nurettin Nurkan, a foreign ministry spokesman.
"The accord confirms Tur-

kish demands for Iraq's territorial integrity and takes into consideration its anxiety for security reasons," he told reporters.

Turkey's interest in ending the conflict ties in its view that a united Iraqi Kurdish government is better able to help protect its southeastern

Until the PUK and the KDP 'started fighting last year, Turkey relied partly on them to stop border infiltrations by militants of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) hiding in northern Iraq.

Since then, Turkey has

to weed out PKK militants. The PKK has been fighting the government for an independent state in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

The United States spon-sored the PUK-KDP negotiation's, which were also attended by a Turkish obser-

Meanwbile, representatives of the mainstream northern Iraqi Kurdish parties also expressed relief at the accord and said a partial implementation could star immediately. "We are very pleased," said the PUK's Shazad Saib.

"The important thing is that both parties maintain a ceasefire and we (the PUK) will do our best to make it He said the two sides

would meet again "in a few weeks," to work out the details of the accord, and set a schedule for its implementa-In the meantime, he said,

"we can maintain the ceasefire, stop media attacks on one another and start to release (exchange) the de-

Israeli poll shows Rabin, Netanyahu, neck-and-neck

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu would be neck-and-neck in the race for prime minister if elections were beld now, an Israeli opinion poll published on Friday showed.

The Dahaf Poll published in the Yedioth Abronoth newspaper said Labour's Rabin and Likud leader Netanyahu would each garner 41 per cent of the vote if they were the only candi-

Eight per cent of the 504 Israelis surveyed said they would not vote and I0 per cent were undecided.

The poll showed that if former Likud Foreign Minister David Levy and rightwing Tsomet Party leader Rafael Eitan entered the race, Mr. Netanyahu's share would drop to 3I per cent, with Mr. Rabin hovering at

In June, the same institute put Mr. Rabin one point in front of Mr. Netanyahn with 39 per cent of voting intentions.

General elections are due to take place in November 1996 when the prime minister will be directly elected for the first time. The poll was taken this

week has an error margin of four per cent. The poll was taken as

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met to hammer out the terms of an interim peace deal on Israeli troop redeployment in the West Bank under the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on Palestinian self-rule (see page

Mr. Netanyahu has said be would freeze the peace moves initiated by Mr. Rabin if be wins the election, scheduled for November 1996.

Defections bewilder Iraqis

(Continued from page 1)

masterminded Iraq's secret military programmes and was widely considered the second most powerful man in Iraq after President Saddam. His brother, Lieutenant-Colonel Saddam Kamel Hassan, was in charge of the president's guards.

"I could not believe it because it happened inside the one family," said Iraqi taxi driver Mohammad Salem. "But if Hussein Kamel Hassan, his brother and Saddam's daughters could not take it anymore, it means things have really reached a crisis," he said, smoking a traditional hubble bubble,

"For us, Saddam and Hussein Kamel were always one because both knew everything about the country. said his colleague, whispering for fear Iraqi under cover agents might be around.

Many said they believed that Hussein Kamel Hassan left due to family disputes after President Saddam began to narrow the circle around him in favour of his two sons Uday and Qusay

and some of his brothers. "If Uday ever gets more power, be sure he will destroy whatever is left of Iraq and its people," lamented Subhi Saleh, a university graduate seeking refuge in the West. Some said they feared

President Saddam might send bit squads to Jordan to assassinate the defectors who are staying at an undisclosed location near Amman under heavy army guard. "If he stays here, I expect

Saddam would do everything to kill him," said Atallah Bakri, a 32-year-old electri-Others doubted they were sincere in their opposition to

President Saddam, and one Iraqi businessman even scorned Hussein Kamel Has-"They took part in inflicting the sanctions and miseries on the people and in trapping Iraq," he said, "now they

leave and pretend they are

saviours who are ready to

contact the West when the

leadership is in sed of men

around it."

Yorks' Spanish 🗀 holiday fuels royal reunion speculation

LONDON (AFP) - Spe culation about a possible reconciliation between the Duke and Duchess of York was further fuelled Friday as they headed off for a joint holiday in Spain, days after being seen kissing io public. Prince Andrew and Fergie, who separated in 1992 and have played down all question of a royal reunion, are due to spend a week in a villa on the Costa del Sol with their childreo, seven-year-old Beatrice and five-year-old Eugenie. Buckingham Palace bas dismissed all talk of the colourful pair getting back together, rife all week since they staged a poblic kiss at a charity golf match earlier in the week. The couple have remained close despite their separation, and poblicity concerning the 'duchess' liaison with ber "adviser" Johnny Bryan. Monday's public kiss at Wentworth Golf Club was widely regarded as an encouraging sign. But a palace spokeswomao said: "The Duke and Duchess of York are baving an entirely private holiday in Spain. They remain . the closest of friends and in the interests of the children they spend as much time as possible together as a family... Any speculation about a reconciliation is guesswork," the spokeswoman

Ramos takes charge as blaze hits palace

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos took charge of fire-fighting operations at the Malacanang presidential palace on Thursday when a blaze broke out in one of the buildings inside the complex. "Grah a hose," Mr. Ramos told a Reuters reporter who approached him. Fire officials said the blaze in the four-storey administrative building broke out at 7:05 a.m. (2305 GMT Wednesday). No casualties were reported. Mr. Ramos, wearing shorts and a T-shirt, was supervising the firefighting, giving orders through a cellular phone. Palace employees said Mr. Ramos, a former career soldier, was jogging in the grounds when the fire broke. out and immediately took

Britain's women bowlers ban Henry the parrot

charge.

LONDON (R) — A noisy, a bad-tempered parrot has been hanned from a national women's bowls championship in Britain for laughing and making disrespectful remarks. Henry is used to sitting on the shoulder of his owner Ralph Shakespeare as he plays at the Bowls Club in Learnington Spa, central England, and regularly comments on the matches. But the club is being used for the early rouods of the National Women' Bowls Cham-pionships and officials have decided Heory could put visiting players off their game. "Henry... has been known to scream "You're a yard short" for some reason people find that objection ahle," Mr. Sbakespeare, a former national team player, told the Times oewspap-er. "We felt it was not right and proper for players io a competition to be distracted by a parrot," club president Roy Steventon said.

President won't resign — unless...

WASHINGTON (AP) -President Bill Clintoo re-sponded with a smile and a joke when asked Thursday if he might resign. The question came from columnist Sarah McClendon, a veteran of more than half a century on the White House beat, who asserted that legislators from the left and right were trying to embarrass Mr. Clinton so much that he would quit. "Would you resign your office under any circumstances?" she asked, drawing laughter from administration supporters who had heen invited to sit in for a White House news conference. "Well, if you promise to run off with me I might," the 48-year-old president responded to the 85-year-old reporter, drawing even more laughter. "Otherwise, I can't think of any reason."

other information identified under a borders safe and Volume 19

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The Jordanian art incident through out an investigation

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"I do tat ev legainst Jerdan ." Hassan, making fir appearance at a tree. ence held on the Lan-Raghadan Palate T regime "would have ed if was in a positi so, but it is counting for reasons known at

कि प्राप्त हैं। for Iraq to start a with lorden ever to added Gen. Have thanked His Mayes: Hussein for the had pitality given

his family Gen. Hassan as direct question efforts to topp a p Saddam were discuss King Hussein. working from with capabilities." be When we need ar

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REGGIO CALABRI — Ao Italian magnet Saturday ordered 50 to stand inal on that strangeling drugs between ly and the United Judicial sources (see judicial sources said.
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